

PUGLIA

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE PLACES
OF MEMORY

of Anti-fascism, Resistance and Reception



[ENG]

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"In the most concrete way, the Congress of Bari formed the link between the armed struggle of northern anti-fascism and the political struggle of southern anti-fascism. It was an event of fundamental importance in the history not only of Southern Italy but of Italy as a whole. All of this seems like a miracle in hindsight. Because it was done under the worst conditions imaginable, in a country exhausted by hunger, reduced to rubble by the war and occupied by the allied forces."

These are the words of this great historian and protagonist of the National Liberation struggle, Giorgio Spini, who found refuge in Puglia after 8 September 1943 and was one of the leading voices for freedom of the press and of Radio Bari, the first free radio on the European continent. They highlight the role of our region in the long and difficult path towards regaining freedom and national unity after the collapse of the regime.

For the first time this guide, which was created by Pugliapromozione and the Istituto Pugliese per la Storia dell'Antifascismo e dell'Italia Contemporanea (Puglia Institute for the History of Anti-Fascism and Contemporary Italy - IPSAIC), will comprehensively reconstruct and bring together the crucial locations and issues of the historical events of the last century, including Anti-fascism, Resistance and Reception, during which Puglia played a significant role in both the southern and national context.

These symbolic places force us to reflect deeply on the difficult path towards achieving democracy. We will begin from the Piccinni Theater in Bari where, in January 1944, in a Europe under the iron heel of Nazi fascism, the word "Freedom" resounded for the first time in many years. Equally we will look at the hometown of the "Good Giant", the lawyer and socialist MP Peppino Di Vagno, victim of the brutal violence of the

fascist squads one hundred years ago, and Turi prison, where Antonio Gramsci and Sandro Pertini were imprisoned.

IT IS important to be aware that the consequences of the racial laws, the persecution, the concentration camp system and, later, the violent occupation by the Nazi army, with massacres and immense destruction, including in various places throughout Puglia, were profound and long-lasting, as clearly demonstrated in this detailed reconstruction by the IPSAIC historians.

In this comprehensive recomposition, making use of a framework combining memory and history, Puglia is characterized by a post-war period that was ahead of the rest of the country and by policies for the reception and refuge of Italians and foreigners, particularly Jews, fleeing the war and Nazi terror.

These were the years in which the international equilibrium changed, years of crisis but at the same time of a new beginning for Italy and for Europe in the name of freedom, peace and the victory of human rights. This complex work by Pugliapromozione and IPSAIC has a strong educational value for audiences beyond Puglia (it is also well suited for use in schools) and ultimately aims to make history visible in the contemporary world and the here and now.

The warm welcome that the people of Puglia offer has continued up to this day, helping to transform the region into one of the most sought-after tourist destinations by travelers from all over the world. With this in mind, this guide aims to develop new forms of "memory tourism" in Puglia as a contemporary phenomenon brought about by the general interest in the area's cultural identity and history.

This phenomenon is based on the belief that Puglia's historical heritage, particularly when it comes to sites connected to the history of the Resistance, deserves to be disseminated, turning it into a real resource for the regional tourist industry, particularly in terms of the school tourism segment.

Michele Emiliano

President of the Puglia Region



Preserving memory

Preserving the memory of the founding events in our country's democratic history is one of the most significant activities to which we, as citizens, scholars and administrators, are called upon to contribute. This task becomes more difficult the more the events to be kept alive are marked by conflict and violence, the more the reconstruction touches on painful events caused by the most cruel and barbaric aspects of human nature.

After the armistice of 8 September 1943, at what was a crucial juncture in the history of the world war but also a fundamental moment in the political and – later – democratic life of the country, the whole of Puglia was the scene of events that the area itself recounts through the many buildings, monuments, memorial stones and plaques that can be found scattered throughout farms and countryside, large cities and small towns. It is therefore important to put the events in order, to reconstruct the dynamics of the events involved and to provide the accounts of those who witnessed them at the time. This is what this guide to the sites of remembrance in Puglia manages to do in an exciting and effective way, through five itineraries to discover places and events that are more or less well known. It tells us of land that was not only the scene of times of war, but also the cradle of peasant movements for the vindication of fundamental economic, social, civil and political rights, and of an anti-fascist movement, one that was both intellectual and practical, that was fervent and heroic and which has too often been overlooked and forgotten.

So let's uncover a dense and lively history on the streets of the regional capital, which is home to the Piccinni Theater, where the First Congress of National Liberation Committees took place on 28 and 29 January 1944. Here there is also the Laterza bookshop, a symbol of cultural resistance to the fascist regime. We will also follow the sheep tracks and cross the farms that were the scene of Nazi massacres in the north of Bari, Murgia and in the south of Capitanata. We will look into the narrow confines of the Turi prison, where Antonio Gramsci and Sandro Pertini were held. Then we will pass through the gates of the concentration camps scattered throughout the region, along with those of the refugee camps where the survivors of fascist violence in Yugoslavia were welcomed. They are places that tell the story of our fathers and grandfathers, but also of our grandmothers and mothers, of their strength and their pride, of the struggle for liberation from Nazi-fascism and of the people's struggle to achieve better living and working conditions. They are places that now call upon us, as citizens committed to keeping their memory alive who have been invested with the task of taking care of them, promoting their role as witnesses of events, preserving and passing on the values they embody through study, protection and, above all, the continuous implementation of the values of anti-fascism in our daily democratic practice.

Massimo Bray

Councilor for Culture, Protection and Development of Cultural Enterprises, Tourism, Development and Tourism Enterprise of the Puglia Region



The memory of the twentieth century in Puglia



Anti-fascism



Resistance



Reception

This guide presents the results of a wide-ranging research project, entrusted by **Pugliapromozione** to the **Istituto Pugliese per la Storia dell'Antifascismo e dell'Italia Contemporanea (Puglia Institute for the History of Anti-Fascism and Contemporary Italy - IPSAIC)**, in order to restore and promote the **sites of remembrance** linked to events and episodes that occurred in Puglia after the **armistice** of 8 September 1943, one of the crucial moments in the national history of the last century.

The construction of a memory map, capable of returning significant aspects of the transition from war to peace and from a despotic regime to a **free society** to the entire regional community, has characterized this journey of **remembrance**.

The Puglia territory was characterized, among other things, by the establishment of **concentration camps** in which Italian and foreign Jews, Slavs from confinement areas and opponents of the regime were imprisoned. From the last months of 1943, refugee camps were set up for Italians and foreigners of different nationalities, especially Jews, fleeing the war and Nazi terror. Across the region's complex landscape, its names and places reveal unusual and dramatic aspects. This is due in part to the widespread loss of memory due to a postwar period that began earlier than in the rest of the country. Throughout the region, between September and October 1943, there were very violent acts from the retreating German army troops who tried to destroy ports, airports, railway and road bridges, and parts of Puglia's water supply system. The access roads of entire villages were bombed and unarmed citizens, particularly straggling soldiers, were massacred.

This guide consists of five itineraries for discovering sites connected to the **Resistance**. The starting point for this journey of remembrance is the Piccinni Theater in Bari, which will reveal significant aspects of the **Liberation** process that saw Puglia as a key participant on par with the regions of the Center and North of the country. The focus is on some emblematic sites of historical events that have characterized the region since the advent of fascism, such as the assassination of the first socialist MP of Conversano, Giuseppe Di Vagno (this year marks

the hundred year anniversary) or the long imprisonment of Antonio Gramsci, symbol of political-intellectual opposition to the regime, and of Sandro Pertini, one of the leading figures in the Italian Resistance and future president of the Republic.

In the construction of these **paths of remembrance**, emphasis was placed on certain scenic, artistic and cultural characteristics of the regional territory, which also allow the visitor to understand the specific geographical and anthropological features of the different areas: Murgia dei Trulli and Murgia Ionica, the Dauno Apennines, Gargano and the southernmost point of Lower Salento. In this exploration of these places, which is accompanied by the words of various writers and essayists, including Antonio Gramsci, Benedetto Croce, Filippo Turati, Tommaso Fiore, Pasquale Soccio and Luigi Corvaglia, and by rich and original photographic and documentary material, fundamental elements of Puglia's strong historical, social and cultural identity are brought out.

With this guide, we also responding to the need to safeguard memory, in the conviction that passing it on can raise awareness of what happened, turning history into **common history**, transforming it into something that feels shared and is a fundamental aspect of our **collective identity**.

The war made its way into some of the most remote places in the region. People were killed on city streets and countryside tracks, where mass executions (war crimes) took place, piling horror upon horror. Gravestones and memorials have made it possible to turn the pain into a public marks of **recognition**. In a gray marble rectangle, simply engraved with a last name and a first name, an individual and collective history is concealed that it is important to recover and share. Tombstones, present throughout the territory of Puglia, monuments and buildings (some completely abandoned, which are at risk of being totally erased from memory) present an **opportunity to reconstruct** the past, for reflection and civic awareness for the communities involved, especially for teachers and students, as well as for the many visitors who have flocked to the regional tourist destinations in recent decades.

Vito Antonio Leuzzi

Puglia Institute for the History of Anti-Fascism and Contemporary Italy (IPSAIC)



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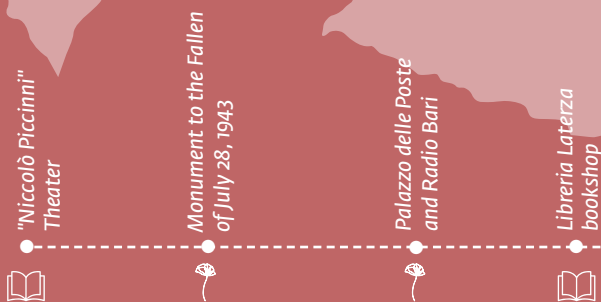
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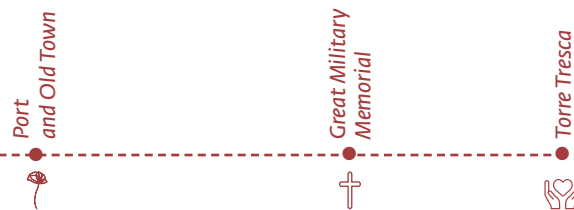


"There is certainly no need for a reminder that the Congress of Bari was the first link in the chain that led us to the Constituent Assembly and the advent of the Republic."

Giorgio Spini



-  "Niccolò Piccinni" Theater, Libreria Laterza bookshop
-  Monument to the Fallen of the massacre of July 28, 1943, Port and Old Town, Palazzo delle Poste (Post Office Building) and Radio Bari
-  Great Military Memorial to the Fallen Overseas
-  Torre Tresca





Itinerary 1 **BARI**

From the collapse of the regime to liberation

The starting point of this journey into memory is the center of Puglia's capital, with its **Municipal Theater** named after **Niccolò Piccinni**, who between 1943 and 1944 was the focal point of the resumption of political-institutional musical and theatrical life in liberated Italy. The First Congress of the National Liberation Committees took place in the Piccinni in January 1944. The route continues along Via Dante, with the **Laterza bookshop**, a symbol of cultural resistance to the fascist regime, and in **Piazza Umberto I**, with the Monument to the Fallen of the Massacre of July 28, 1943. We then stop at the **Port** and **Old Town** to relive the memory of the Resistance of September 9, 1943. We return to the heart of the Murattian district, with the **Palazzo delle Poste (Post Office Building)**, which was attacked by the fleeing Nazis. The itinerary ends with the "**Torre Tresca**" military concentration camp for prisoners of war, which was transformed after the armistice into a reception and sorting center for refugees, and the **Military Memorial of the Fallen Overseas**, inaugurated in 1967, one of the most important points of reference between the two wars and, in particular, of the last world war.

"NICCOLÒ PICCINNI" THEATER

Corso Vittorio Emanuele 84

The CLN Congress of Bari

"The first democratic congress to be held on the European continent since the day Hitler extinguished the light of democracy": this is how Radio London presented the conference of the anti-fascist forces gathered in the Piccinni Theater on January 28 and 29, 1944 to an international audience. Much of the news of liberated Italy was played on the same wavelength as this British broadcaster, including "La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno", which defined this event as "the first anti-fascist congress of liberated Europe", opened by the philosopher of freedom, Benedetto Croce, a symbol of cultural and intellectual opposition to fascism. The Congress of Bari was the first free and autonomous voice of the political forces that had opposed the dictatorship and the first expression of democracy in a continental Europe still dominated by Nazism.



THE BEGINNING OF THE WORK OF THE CLN CONGRESS



Bari, "Niccolò Piccinni" Theater, January 28, 1944

Judge Michele Cifarelli, one of the most significant exponents of anti-fascism and the Action Party, thus began the work of the CLN Congress:

As secretary of the provincial liberation committee of Bari, I am carrying out the task of greeting the congressmen of liberated Italy with great emotion. These are our comrades, made up of exiled anti-fascists and the anti-fascists of central and northern Italy. We are all deeply moved because this is the first assembly of an Italy that has been resurrected, of our homeland, which, despite experiencing infinite ruin, grief, devastation and a nameless tragedy, today it appears once again in the spotlight of history, resuming the luminous path to freedom from which it has never allowed itself to be diverted. The violence and fraud, which this had allowed, have fallen into nothingness. Now it's up to the Italian people to rise again, to rebuild in freedom.

V.A. Leuzzi (ed.), Bari, January 28 and 29, 1944. *Il Primo Congresso dei Comitati di Liberazione Nazionale*, Edizioni dal Sud, Bari 2014, pp. 15 ff.

The broader meaning of the Bari Congress was suggested by the historian Giorgio Spini, who, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary, in a speech before the President of the Republic and the highest offices of the State, stressed:

The Congress of Bari represented a solemn rejection of the tradition of southern transformism. It also represented the resumption of the redemption of Southern Italy, which had been interrupted after Garibaldi's victory in the Risorgimento. Insofar as, in the most concrete way, the Congress of Bari formed the link between the armed struggle of northern anti-fascism and the political struggle of southern anti-fascism. It was an event of fundamental importance in the history not only of Southern Italy but of Italy as a whole. All of this seems like a miracle in hindsight, Because it was done under the worst conditions imaginable, in a country exhausted by hunger, reduced to rubble by the war and occupied by the allied forces. The Italian people saw the latter as liberators and friends, but their intentions were not always well-defined and their judgments on the possibility of our rebirth into freedom were not always positive. And all this was done with admirable dignity and composure, which prevailed even over well-justified impatience, giving a first solemn example of civil custom both within and without. It should not be forgotten that the Bari Congress was the first link in the chain that led to the Constituent Assembly and the advent of the Republic.

(IPSAIC Archive)



"Niccolò Piccinni" Theater, commemorative plaques of the CLN Congress



MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN OF THE MASSACRE OF JULY 28, 1943

Piazza Umberto I

The yearning for freedom due to the fall of the fascist regime in Bari was stifled in blood following the draconian provisions issued by General Roatta, but in fact prompted by Pietro Badoglio, head of the government, and sent to all military commands. On July 28, 1943, a massacre of university and middle school students, teachers and ordinary citizens took place in Bari. They had been demonstrating for the release of anti-fascists from prison and for the removal of the symbols of fascism. The numerous demonstrators were blockaded between Piazza Umberto I and Via Niccolò dall'Arca by an army unit, under the command of an officer, deployed under the leadership of the PNF (National Fascist Party). Suddenly, while Professor Fabrizio Canfora was trying to explain the peaceful intent of the demonstration, shots were fired at the young people by the military unit in war gear and by other armed individuals from the PNF building. The toll was terrifying: twenty dead and about seventy wounded. In an article in "L'Italia del popolo", a weekly paper of the Action Party, Professor Camphor described the thoughtless and repressive action: "The rush of joy at the fall of Mussolini on July 25 was soon stifled in our city, too, albeit more painfully than elsewhere, in a lake of blood".

TESTIMONIES



One of the seriously wounded, the young Massimino De Feo, stated in a testimony:

We found ourselves in front of a true firing squad. We were ten meters from the headquarters of the fascist party. Suddenly they started shooting at us; the military below along with others from the windows of the fascist federation.

V.A. Leuzzi (ed.), *Bari 28 July 1943. Memoria di una strage*, Edizioni dal Sud, Bari 2003.

 LATERZA BOOKSHOP

Via Dante Alighieri 49/53

A symbolic site of cultural resistance to the fascist regime under the guidance of Benedetto Croce and Giovanni Laterza, founder of the publishing house, it was the meeting place for a group of intellectuals in the capital led by Tommaso Fiore, Fabrizio Canfora, Michele Cifarelli and Ernesto De Martino, who founded the liberal-socialist movement and opposed the racial laws and the war. The publishing house and the bookstore, starting from 1938 and for the whole period of the conflict, were subjected to extensive book seizure operations and denunciations of authors, translators and collaborators, which culminated in the arrest, in the spring of 1943, of the exponents of liberal-socialism and Nino Laterza, head of the bookshop.

Plaque affixed to via Dante Alighieri 49:

BETWEEN 1900 AND 1950 / HERE / IN THE FORMER HEADQUARTERS / OF THE LATERZA PUBLISHING HOUSE / BENEDETTO CROCE, / A MAESTRO OF WISDOM AND FREEDOM, / SPENT INDUSTRIOUS DAYS / IN ENLIVENING / CONVERSATION WITH FRIENDS AND DISCIPLES / TO PROMOTE / IN A HARMONIOUS PARTNERSHIP / WITH GIOVANNI LATERZA / MEMORABLE PUBLISHING ENTERPRISES / THE CIVIC ADMINISTRATION / PLACES THIS PLAQUE / ON THE CENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH / FEBRUARY 25, 1966.

 THE RESISTANCE AT THE PORT AND IN THE OLD TOWN

September 9, 1943

In the aftermath of the armistice of 8 September, the population of the Old Town immediately understood the danger and the destructive intent of the retreating Germans. The alarm, which was raised by the women and children living near the port, led to the prompt intervention of General Nicola Bellomo and of some young officers who mobilized in support of the sailors, engineers, financiers and former soldiers, who had opposed an immediate and spontaneous resistance to violent aggression. The Nazis had managed to undermine some harbor docks and sink some small vessels (the Genepesca II, the steamship Frosinone and the Vanda M9 motor ship).

The children of the port workers played a very active role in the battle, which lasted several hours. There were several victims among the Italians, in particular five soldiers belonging to different units and one civilian, while among the Germans there were seven dead and twenty wounded. Considered by historians Roberto Battaglia and Giorgio Rochat as one of the first acts of the Resistance in Italy against the Germans, it ended with the capture of about two hundred Wehrmacht soldiers, who were then released late in the evening on the orders of the Italian military high command.



Bari, Piazza San Pietro

TESTIMONIES

ALLA MEMORIA DI COLORO CHE CADDERO EROICAMENTE
PER LA DIFESA DEL PORTO DI BARI
8-9 SETTEMBRE 1943

BARNABA	GIUSEPPE
CARELLA	PASQUALE
CHICCHI	MICHELE
FACHIN	WALTER
LEONE	DOMENICO
PARTIPILO	LUIGI

ASS. PARTIGIANI D'ITALIA

In a report sent to the Government of Brindisi, in the aftermath of the clashes, General Bellomo stated:

At 1:15 pm on September 9, while I was having lunch I learned from fleeing frightened women that German units were raiding the port of Bari, with the likely purpose of destroying the port and naval works to take possession of the steamships and sail off with them. Then I went to Piazza S. Pietro to organize the next major offensive which was to take place by breaking in from the ramp adjacent to the Consortium Hospital.

A Bari sailor, Mario Trani, who participated in the resistance in the old town, highlighted, in particular, the courage of the dockworkers' children:

We continued from the old fortress, climbing over terraces and right over the bridge of S. Nicola. A (German) truck crossed that bridge so the enlisted attacked it. Since we saw so many willing boys throwing themselves our way, we encouraged them to throw hand grenades that we provided, so much so that a little fourteen-year-old boy by the name of Romito Michele, who lived at Via San Marco 50, set the truck on fire with a thrown grenade.

V.A. Leuzzi - G. Esposito, *L'8 settembre 1943 in Puglia e Basilicata*, Edizioni dal Sud, Bari 2003.



Bari, Palazzo della Dogana



Bari, view of the Old Town

PALAZZO DELLE POSTE (POST OFFICE BUILDING) AND RADIO BARI

Piazza Cesare Battisti 1

On September 9, 1943, during the same hours as the devastating attack on the port, the Germans attacked the Palazzo delle Telecomunicazioni in Piazza Cesare Battisti, behind the university, which was well defended by drafted postal workers and Carabinieri. A few blocks away was the headquarters of Radio Bari, at 247 Via Putignani, in a building adjacent to the church of San Rocco. Thanks to the efforts of technicians and the active support of anti-fascist intellectuals, the powerful Bari radio station, one of the main facilities of the Ente Italiano Audizioni Radiofoniche (Italian Entity for Radio Transmissions - EIAR), took on a new lease of life after the propaganda campaign carried out during the Fascist period.



Bari, former Palazzo delle Poste (Post Office Building)

A few days after the armistice, Radio Bari, under the direction of Ian Greenlees – an English officer and a well-known scholar of Benedetto Croce, who landed in Taranto with the first groups of the English VIII Army – was able to broadcast its first political commentaries. This was entrusted to the secretary of the CLN Judge Michele Cifarelli and marked a turning point in the national news landscape after the collapse of the regime. The radio of Puglia's capital soon became the focal point for Italian and foreign writers, actors, musicians and journalists. With its broadcasts, including "Italia Combatte", hosted by the writer Alba De Céspedes, the EIAR station was characterized by its support for anti-fascism fighters and forces and the Resistance in Italy, the Balkan peninsula and the Greek islands.



Former Palazzo delle Poste (Post Office Building), memorial plaque



TORRE TRESCA REFUGEE CAMP

Strada Torre Tresca

Reception of foreign immigrants of different nationalities

A few weeks after the armistice of September 8, 1943, the Anglo-American allies decided to use the facilities of a former military concentration camp for prisoners of war called "Torre Tresca", turning it into a reception and sorting center for Yugoslavian, Albanian and Greek refugees and, in particular, for Jews of various nationalities from the Balkans, together with fellow nationals repatriated from Dalmatia, Corfu and Patras.

The camp occupied a large area on the outskirts of Carbonara (a suburb of Bari) and consisted of some masonry buildings and many wooden shacks (demolished in the early '60s). In 1944 "Transit Camp No. 1" also served as a recruitment center for the Yugoslav resistance. In fact, the first Overseas Brigade was formed, including a special Jewish platoon that included some Italians, university students, who took the decision to support the anti-Nazi struggle on the other side of the Adriatic. In addition to the quarantine unit, there was an area in the camp designed to accommodate refugees for a longer stay.

In the post-war period, the refugee camp was occupied by several hundred families from the Old Town, which was hard hit by the events of the war. In particular, the German bombing of December 2, 1943 and the explosion of the steamship "Charles Henderson" of April 9, 1945, loaded with very dangerous war materials. Today the brick camp Church (built in the early 1950s on the small wooden chapel) withstands the wear and tear of time, and is not far from the largest sports facility in the city, the "San Nicola" football stadium.



GREAT MILITARY MEMORIAL OF THE FALLEN OVERSEAS

Via Giovanni Gentile 31

Unveiled in 1967, it is one of the most important memorial sites for the period between the two wars and, in particular, the last world war. It documents the extent of the violence that bloodied Europe and the entire Mediterranean. The Sacrarium preserves, among others, the remains of thousands of Italian soldiers massacred by the Nazis in Cephallonia, Corfu, in the Aegean islands, in Albania, in Greece and in Yugoslavia. In the central part, next to the funerary monuments dedicated, among others, to generals Luigi Mascherpa and Inigo Campioni, there is the tomb of general Nicola Bellomo, shot in Nisida in 1945.





Archaeological Museum of Santa Scolastica

The Museum houses a large and comprehensive archaeological collection. The site of San Pietro preserves traces of the indigenous settlement, remains of the Roman period, part of a medieval church with an adjoining necropolis and a 15th century Franciscan convent.

📞 +39 080 541 25 96

Basilica di San Nicola

An extraordinary example of the Romanesque style in Puglia, in the heart of the historic center of Bari, the Basilica di San Nicola was founded in the 11th century. It is one of the major hubs of religious tourism in southern Italy and a symbol of the union between East and West.

📞 +39 080 573 71 11

Diocesan Museum

The Episcopal Seminary of Bari houses the Diocesan Museum with splendid sculptures and paintings from the 16th to the 18th century, masterpieces of miniature art and a Treasure Room.

📞 +39 080 521 00 64

Puglia Waterworks Building and Water Museum

Located behind the Petruzzelli Theater, "Il Palazzo dell'Acqua" (Water Building) was built between 1927 and 1932 to celebrate the completion of the project to bring water to a chronically thirsty region, an undertaking well chronicled by the decorator Duilio Cambellotti through a rich gallery of decorative forms.

Norman-Swabian Castle

Built by the Normans in the 12th century and restored by Frederick II around 1230, the castle has numerous extensions attributable to later periods. Inside there is the Gipsoteca, which houses casts of ornamental sculptures in use from the 11th to the 17th century. 📞 +39 080 521 37 04

Civic Museum

An imposing medieval fortified complex houses the Civic Museum, guardian of the rich heritage of Bari's history. Its rooms take you on a journey through the imagination, from the Renaissance to the present day, through artistic heritage and testimonies to salient episodes in the lives of the people of Bari.

📞 +39 080 577 23 62

Petruzzelli Theater

Located in the heart of the city, on Corso Cavour, it was opened in 1903. In 1991 it was destroyed by arson, only to be rebuilt and restored to its former glory in 2009. IT IS the fourth largest Italian theater, as well as the largest private theater in Europe.

📞 +39 080 975 28 10

Margherita Theater

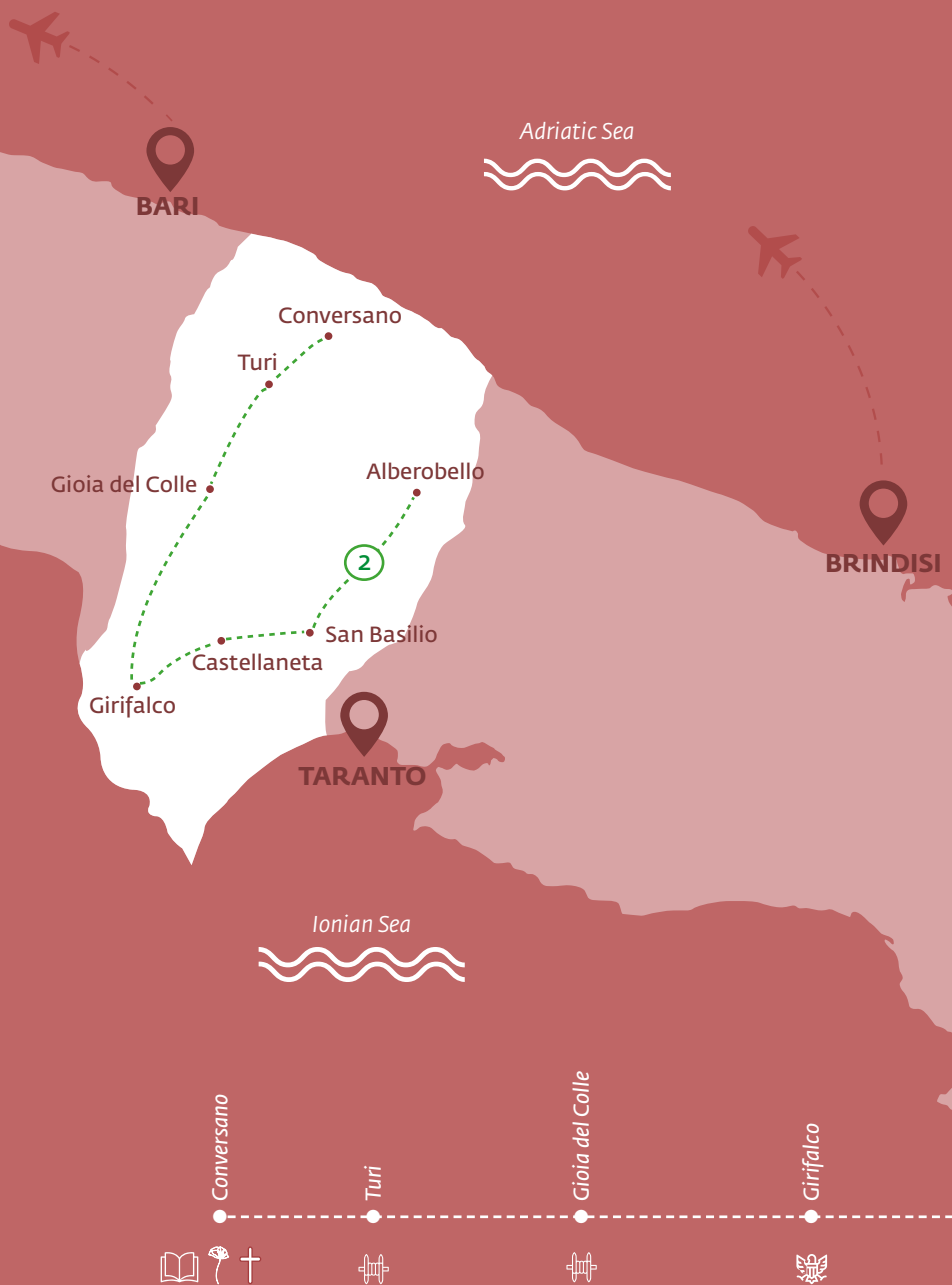
Built between 1912 and 1914, it is the first reinforced concrete building in Bari and the only one in Europe to be built on stilts. Today, the Margherita is a place for meeting and discussing issues related to contemporary art.

📞 +39 080 577 62 00



2 MURGIA DEI TRULLI AND MURGIA IONICA

Fascism, concentration camps and Wehrmacht violence



"Suddenly, on the morning of September 26, 1921 the news spread throughout Bari, Peppino Di Vagno had been murdered in Mola! [...] Things were taking a turn for the worst, all we felt was dread and threat, and instinctively everyone retreated into their shell."

Tommaso Fiore

-  Conversano
-  Turi, Alberobello, Gioia del Colle
-  Castellaneta, Girifalco
-  Alberobello, San Basilio

Itinerary 2

MURGIA DEI TRULLI AND MURGIA IONICA

Fascism, concentration camps and Wehrmacht violence

Leaving Bari in a south-easterly direction, after about 30 kilometers you will come across the **Murgia dei Trulli**, one of the most distinctive areas in Puglia's geological and anthropological landscape, with an agrarian landscape rich in tree crops and typical rural dwellings: Trulli. In this area there are certain memorial sites that are particularly significant for Puglia's 20th century history.

In the area of Gioia del Colle, in **Marzagaglia**, on July 1, 1920 one of the first massacres in Italy against the peasant movement fighting for better living and working conditions took place. In **Conversano**, after the socialist conquest of the town and, in particular, after the election of Giuseppe Di Vagno to Parliament in May 1921, a violent reaction from the fascist squads began against the socialist member of parliament, which culminated in his assassination on September 25 of the same year. Significant members of the anti-fascist opposition, anarchists, socialists and communists were imprisoned in **Turi**; in particular, Antonio Gramsci and Sandro Pertini. In this journey through memory, two fascist internment camps come to the fore, for Italian and foreign Jews of different nationalities and for "former Yugoslavs" from confinement areas, located near **Alberobello** and **Gioia del Colle**. Towards **Murgia Ionica**, in **Castellaneta** and in the area of **Ginosa**, other Wehrmacht massacres took place.

In the area between Alta Murgia of Bari and Murgia Tarantina, along the state road 100 from Gioia del Colle towards Taranto, dotted with centuries-old woods and a very distinctive agricultural landscape, with long stretches of arable land and pasture, skirting the military airport, and on the border with the Terra di Bari, you will come across a vast hilly area overlooking the port and the Taranto coast. The retreating Germans settled for a short period of time in a fortified farm house in **San Basilio** to carry out a series of destructive attacks on the territory, targeting the Gioia del Colle airport, the Bari-Taranto railway and undermining the communication roads towards Matera and Basilicata, in **Girifalco**; in **Castellaneta** they opened fire with heavy weapons. The village of San Basilio, a hamlet of Mottola, is known for the "Casina Isabella", one of the residences of the De Sangro nobles, and for its fortified farm.



CONVERSANO

The Memory of Giuseppe Di Vagno

Birthplace of the lawyer and socialist member of parliament Giuseppe Di Vagno, between the 19th and 20th centuries, with its Liceo Convitto high school, it was one of the most important centers of learning in the Terra di Bari. The building – located in the shadow of the Norman castle, the Romanesque Cathedral, the Episcopal Curia and a few dozen meters from the convent of San Benedetto – was the training ground, between war and post-war, of Di Vagno's young assailants. The "Good Giant", as Turati called him, worked in the courtrooms and representative institutions, representing demands for social justice of the peasant movement and of large segments of the population and was the embodiment of the enemy to be defeated in the general climate of violence of the period.



Conversano, castle

FILIPPO TURATI

GIUSEPPE DI VAGNO
 MEDIEVAL FUROR DI FAZIONI
 SCHIANTO BARBARAMENTE
 L'INDOMITA SUA GIOVINEZZA
 IL MARTIRIO FA SACRA QUEST'ARA
 VIVE EGLI NEL RIMPIANTO PERENNE
 DEI BUONI DI TUTTE LE PEDI
 RISORGERÀ DALLE CENERI LACRIMATE
 QUANDO LA GIUSTIZIA PIA DEL LAVORO
 PER LA QUALE VISSE SOFFERSE E MORÌ
 AVRÀ RICONCILIATO PER SEMPRE
 LE GENTI DELLA STESSA TERRA
 LE GENTI DI TUTTE LE TERRE
 NEL SOCIALISMO.

FILIPPO TURATI

*Giuseppe Di Vagno
 The medieval fury of factions
 barbarously smashed apart
 his indomitable youth
 martyrdom makes this altar sacred
 he lives in perennial regret
 good people of all faiths
 will rise from the ashes tearful
 when the pious justice of work
 for which he lived, suffered and died
 will have brought together forever
 the people of the same land
 the people of all lands
 in socialism.*

Filippo Turati

Palazzo del Municipio (Town Hall Building), Piazza XX Settembre.
 Memorial plaque

The Conversano cemetery guards the important memory of one of the first assassinations of an elected official at the hands of the fascists. Every September 25th, the day of the attack in Mola di Bari, Di Vagno's tomb was the destination of a pilgrimage by anti-fascists who dared to challenge the regime's prohibitions. Throughout the post-war period, the most significant figures in political and institutional life – including Pietro Nenni, Sandro Pertini and Giorgio Napolitano – paid homage to the funeral monument, which also contains the remains of his wife Giuseppina and his son, Giuseppe Jr., an exponent of the PSI, who was elected several times to Parliament and, later, mayor of the city.



TESTIMONIES



Conversano, cemetery

Suddenly, on the morning of September 26, 1921 the news spread throughout Bari: Peppino Di Vagno had been murdered in Mola! It was like a roll of thunder in a dark sky when you do not know where it came from, one not accompanied by lightning or by a cleansing storm, leading to a long and deep feeling of dread. The members of parliament of the province rushed to the dying or dead man immediately. There were representatives of every party, so much was the revulsion felt by all. Then the horrible thing lingered in the air like a nightmare, without much being known about it. Things were taking a turn for the worst, all we felt was dread and threat, and instinctively everyone retreated into their shells.

Tommaso Fiore, text read on Radio Bari in 1944.



TURI

The Imprisonment of Antonio Gramsci and Sandro Pertini

About 10 kilometers from Conversano is the city of Turi, in a karst area which is rich in sinkholes, wells, caves and a unique agricultural landscape in which cherry tree crops stand out in particular. The highest point of the city center is represented by the Palazzo Marchesale.

Arriving in Turi you come across an imposing building, built in the second half of the 19th century, which was originally the new convent of the Clarisses, but was then later used as a penitentiary. In the second half of the 1920s, representatives of the opposition to the Mussolini regime from different political backgrounds were locked up in this prison facility. Among them was Antonio Gramsci, one of the founders of the Communist Party and a theorist of the alliance between *southern peasants* and northern workers, who was transferred there in 1928. A few years later, the socialist lawyer Sandro Pertini, future President of the Republic, was imprisoned there, albeit for a short period.

The prison environment was described by Gramsci as follows: "A blade so thin that it completely destroys thought." He found it hardest at first as he was crammed into a six-person dormitory. He later managed to be placed in a single cell that allowed him to concentrate and begin writing, after obtaining permission, though not without difficulty. In spite of the harsh prison regime, on February 8, 1929, he began drafting *the Prison Notebooks*. They came to a total of 33, 21 of which written in the Puglia town.



Turi, penitentiary

LETTERS FROM PRISON



Turi, penitentiary, memorial plaques of Antonio Gramsci (1945) and Sandro Pertini (2018)

Dearest Tania, I arrived at my destination yesterday morning. The Rome-Turi trip was horrible. It seems that the pains I felt in Rome, which seemed to me like a liver ache, were just the beginning of an inflammation that manifested itself later.

With these words, Gramsci gave news to the family in the first letter sent from the "Casa speciale penale" (Special Penal House) of Turi, on July 20, 1928, after a journey that lasted several days with stops at the prisons of Benevento and Foggia, as required by the strict rules of the time.



ALBEROBELLO *Concentration Camp*

About 5 kilometers from the town of Alberobello, in the Albero della Croce district, on the road towards Mottola, almost on the border of the of Noci, is the Masseria Gigante farmhouse, known today as the "Casa Rossa" (Red House), which around 1887 was turned into a Foundation, thanks to the donation of the priest Francesco Gigante to the Municipality of Alberobello. Until the outbreak of World War II, the Gigante Foundation ran an agricultural school using the 72 hectares of land cultivated with vineyards, orchards, olive groves, rotational crops and a stable, along with a dairy and cellar.

In June 1940, teaching activities were suspended at the behest of the Ministry of the Interior and a concentration camp for civil war prisoners was established.

The concentration facility – which overlooks one of the most distinctive valleys – had 32 rooms over two floors with an adjoining trullo and a small church.

Among the first to stay, albeit for a short time, were twenty British civilians. Immediately afterwards, 79 foreign and stateless Jews (Polish and Austrian) and 8 Italian Jews were deported. The Jewish internees remained in Masseria Gigante for about two years, before being transferred to the Ferramonti internment camp in Calabria. During the period of their stay, some Jewish doctors, musicians and artists, through an agreement with the camp directors, developed friendly relations with some local families, as reported by Francesco Terzulli.

Starting in August 1941, a group of ex-Yugoslavs from the confinement zones arrived at Masseria Gigante, admitted on charges of anti-fascism and aiding and abetting rebels. Discipline became stricter and camp officials decided to erect a barbed wire fence around the perimeter of the facility. After the fall of Mussolini, most of the former Yugoslavs were sent to the camps in Lazio. The last foreign internees left a few days before the armistice was announced.



Alberobello, "Casa Rossa"



TESTIMONIES



One of the tasks that the Jews confined to the Alberobello camp poured their energy into was to try, through various channels of communication, to obtain an emigration visa. At the Camp, meanwhile, life proceeded with regular monotony. Some people painted pictures or worked occasionally in the service of the camp, Abeles (a musician) worked as a cook and washed the linen, Birnbaum (a photographer) worked as a nurse and Fiel (a dental technician) served as an interpreter in the internment camps in Bari.

F. Terzulli, *Una stella fra i trulli*, Adda publisher, Bari 1996.

Requirements for concentration camps and internment sites

(Ministry of the Interior, Rome 1940. Points 9-13)

9. Parcel mail of any kind, whether incoming or outgoing must be reviewed or inspected by the camp director, or failing that by the podestà or their appointee, prior to delivery or mailing.
10. Inmates may not keep radio equipment.
11. Visits by family members to internees in both concentration camps and internment communities must be authorized by the Ministry.
12. The cohabitation of family members with internees in concentration camps is not allowed.
13. The cohabitation of family members with inmates in the internment communities must be authorized by the Ministry; the relevant dossiers must be sent to the Ministry by the police headquarters concerned, with the necessary instructions.

GIOIA DEL COLLE Concentration Camp

In the summer of 1940, on the outskirts of the city of Gioia del Colle, which was also a place of free internment, a little more than a kilometer from the town, on the road to Santeramo, the Ministry of the Interior requisitioned the premises of the former Pagano Mill to set up a concentration camp that housed just over fifty individuals, almost all Italian Jews, together with a doctor of Polish origin, and a stateless person.

The imposing building, surrounded by solid walls, took on the appearance of a military structure with facilities, a canteen and offices, two large dormitories located on the first floor, while an isolation area was set up on the upper floor.

At the end of December the prefect of Bari, at the request of the Mayor of Gioia del Colle, suggested the possibility of transferring the internees to other locations for security reasons, given the proximity of the military airport.

With the new year, a substantial number of the interned Jews were relocated to the municipality of Isola Gran Sasso, in Abruzzo. The last internees left the camp in early June 1941, while furnishings were transferred to the Ferramonti camp in the province of Cosenza.



Gioia del Colle, historic center

TESTIMONIES



Jewish internees in the Gioia del Colle camp

The Italian Jews interned in the Gioia del Colle camp, hard-working people and severely affected by the racial laws of 1938 which gave rise to widespread marginalization, experienced a situation of profound anguish also due to the privations and humiliations that invested their families.



San Basilio, "Casa Isabella"

SAN BASILIO *German Occupation*

In the area between Alta Murgia of Bari and Murgia Tarantina, along the state road 100 from Gioia del Colle towards Taranto, dotted with centuries-old woods and a very distinctive agricultural landscape, with long stretches of arable land and pasture, skirting the military airport, you will reach San Basilio (district of Mottola). This small village was the site of one of the residences of the De Sangro nobles, "Casa Isabella" and a fortified farmhouse. Today the latter, with battlements and a tower similar to a medieval stronghold, is in a state of abandonment. The whole area of the De Sangro estate was occupied in the summer of 1943 by units of the Wehrmacht to control the rail and road communication routes from the port of Taranto towards the area of Matera and the Terra du Bari, and to control the Gioia del Colle airport. After September 8, the Germans embarked on a great number of sabotages, penetrating the airport and blowing up railway and road bridges. In particular, they blocked the tunnel of the Bari-Taranto railway in the area of "Santa Caterina", near San Basilio. The stationmaster of Castellaneta was able to promptly inform his colleague in Gioia del Colle, avoiding a massacre due to the arrival of a passenger train.



San Basilio, Masseria De Sangro



CASTELLANETA *Massacre of 27 Citizens*

About 8 kilometers from San Basilio rises Castellaneta, located on a hill overlooking the Gulf of Taranto, on the border with Basilicata, in an area characterized by deep karst cavities and one of the largest ravines in the region. On September 11, 1943, the Germans, who had occupied the city for several days, began to seize trucks and cars, but were forced to abandon the city due to the arrival of vanguards of the eighth British army, who had landed in Taranto. This quickly reached Mottola and, immediately after, Castellaneta. In order to hinder the British advance, the Germans fired artillery shots that hit one of the neighbourhoods of the city, where a small crowd had gathered waiting for the arrival of the Allies.

The road was strewn with bodies and wounded for over 100 feet, in a torrent of blood. It was then that an admirable display of generosity arose among the citizens, who, heedless of the possible danger, rushed to help the wounded. These were then transported to the Seminary, while the dead were placed in the Cathedral.

Victims' names:

Garofalo Carmina, D'Addario Giuseppe, Galeandro Nicola, Petrosino Antonio, Giandomenico Antonio, Rubino Angelo, Leggieri Domenico, Rubino Giuseppe, Petrosino Mario, Buscaroli Fiorino, Mancini Francesco, Petrosino Vito, Orsini Mario, Giampetruzzi Isabella, Noia Angelo, Ravello Cosimo, Casamassima Benito, Albanese Giuseppina, Rinaldi Maria, Corisi Giuseppe, Argentino Salvatore, Granito Giovanni, Coriglione Giuseppe, Tamburrano Francesco, Marangi Vitantonio, Fiorentino Emanuele, Presta Luigi.

GIRIFALCO (Ginosa) *Massacre of Peasants*

The state road from Castellaneta to Ginosa is just over 22 kilometers long and crosses an area rich in rock churches. The city, with the remains of a medieval castle, is located on a large ravine, used by Pier Paolo Pasolini to shoot some scenes of the film *The Gospel According to St. Matthew*. The retreating Germans placed land mines along access roads and open fields in an attempt to hinder the Allied advance. On May 2, 1944, nine young men from Ginosa who were returning from working in the fields on a wagon pulled by mules were blown up by hidden land mines. The victims (Di Taranto Francesco, Di Santo Antonio, Di Santo Domenico, Festa Francesco, Festa Vito, Di Tingo Francesco fu Antonio, Di Tingo Francesco fu Angelo, Cecere Saverio and Di Canio Giuseppe) left from the "Pilaccio" (an ancient stone drinking trough) to go to work in the "Peppariello" area, but they never returned.



At the site of the massacre, a votive shrine, in Pleistocene calcarenite of sedimentary origin from the quarries of Ginosa, commemorates the massacre. On a black marble slab, photographs were attached and names carved. The votive shrine, in the hamlet of Girifalco, is not visible from the main road and can be reached on foot. Some years ago the municipal administration took the decision to name the stairway that joins Via Matteotti to Via Teano after the 9 victims of the massacre.



Ginosa, view of the village



Girifalco, votive shrine commemorating the 1944 massacre



Conversano **Norman-Swabian Castle and** **Municipal Art Gallery**

Of Norman-Swabian origins, it was consolidated in the 15th century by the Acquaviva family. Home to the municipal art gallery, it contains the 17th-century paintings from the "La Gerusalemme Liberata" series by Paolo Finoglio.

📞 +39 080 495 85 25

Conversano **Cathedral and Convent of** **S. Benedetto**

A jewel of the Romanesque style in Puglia, the Cathedral has a gabled facade with three portals crowned by a 15th-century rose window. The convent, whose construction began in the 6th century, was the seat of the mitered abbesses.

📞 +39 080 495 11 23

Alberobello **Trullo Sovrano**

A rare example of a two-story trullo, built in the first half of the 18th century, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and contains authentic furnishings and objects.

📞 +39 080 495 11 23

Gioia del Colle **Archaeological-Naturalistic** **Park of Monte Sannace**

It includes extensive settlement areas of the most important center of ancient Peucezia, which flourished in particular between the 6th and 4th centuries BC.

📞 +39 080 348 30 52

Castellaneta **"Rodolfo Valentino" Museum**

This museum houses bibliographic documentation on the great silent film actor Rodolfo Valentino, as well as illustrative panels, personal belongings, movie posters and films.

📞 +39 099 849 31 92

Ginosa **Ginosa rock habitat**

In the ravine behind the town, a landscape of extraordinary charm still preserves primitive settlements carved into the tuffaceous rock.

📞 +39 099 829 03 32

Caves of Castellana

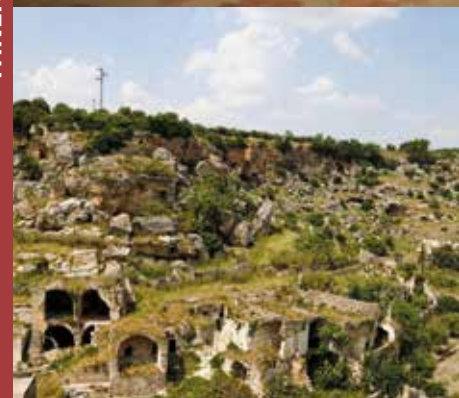
Extraordinary natural architecture with spectacular crystalline formations and tunnels, they are a caving complex of international repute, discovered in 1938 by Franco Anelli.

📞 +39 080 499 82 21

Laterza **MUMA - Majolica Museum**

Located in the Palazzo Marchesale in Laterza, the Majolica Museum preserves precious treasures of the artisanal and ceramic art traditions of Laterza, which have been handed down for centuries.

📞 +39 099 829 67 93



③ TERRA DI BARI

Nazi occupation, massacres and refugee intake



"The city of Barletta, a shining example of the virtues of the people of southern Italy, hands over to future generations this testimony to the values arising from the rebirth of the homeland and the victory of democracy and peace."

Motivation for the awarding of the Gold Medal for military valor
07-07-2003



Barletta, Bitetto, Altamura, Gravina in Puglia



Barletta, Bitetto, Murgetta Rossi



Murgetta Rossi, Gravina in Puglia



Altamura, Gravina in Puglia





Itinerary 3

TERRA DI BARI

Nazi occupation, massacres and refugee intake

Along the road from **Barletta** to Castel del Monte, in the heart of rocky Puglia, in one of the region's most evocative landscapes from an artistic and naturalistic point of view, crossed by the imposing structures of the Puglia Aqueduct and the Calabro-Lucane Railways (today Appulo-Lucane), one can see the signs of one of the largest and most criminal operations of the Wehrmacht divisions. The Castle built by Frederick II of Swabia and the Palazzo delle Poste (Post Office Building) in Barletta were the scene of the violent retaliation from the German army a few days after the announcement of the armistice.

In these destructive acts, "intentions of revenge and the barbarization of the conduct of war" were fully on display, as Gerhard Schreiber, a well-known military historian, argues in his decades of research in German archives. The first orders issued in Italy by the supreme command of the Wehrmacht on September 10, 1943 called for no regard for "the Italian troops serving Badoglio". It was in this context that the massacres of Barletta and Spinazzola, in **Murgetta Rossi**, took place. Other criminal acts were committed by the German army, particularly in **Altamura** and **Gravina in Puglia**. Railway bridges, water depots, access roads to towns and villages, and food warehouses were bombed; public and private modes of transport were seized; announcements were issued for the forced labor of the male population and unarmed citizens were taken into custody.

During the complex sabotage operations on the Potenza-Altamura-Bari line of defense, some units of the Wehrmacht in **Bitetto**, a few kilometers away from Puglia's capital, attacked a unit of the Royal Italian Army on the morning of September 9. At the same time in Bari an attempt to destroy the port was underway.

Along the route of the Appulo-Lucane Railways, on the Bari-Altamura-Gravina line, various devastating attacks took place against the facilities of the Puglia Aqueduct, military depots and other infrastructure. In Gravina in Puglia, in particular, unarmed citizens and straggling soldiers were targeted. In the same territory, near Altamura, a few weeks after September 8, 1943, the Allied Authorities requisitioned a former military concentration camp, to be used for the reception of refugees, both military and civilian, from the Balkan area.

BARLETTA *Massacre of the City Police on September 12, 1943*

After a first attempt to attack the city on 10 and 11 September, with an operation carried out with the help of heavy weapons and the support of the air force, some units of the Wehrmacht managed to occupy the imposing bulk of the Castle, the site of the military garrison, the port and other strategic places. In this context, on the side facade of the Palazzo delle Poste, in front of the Monument to the Fallen of All Wars, in the heart of the city, under the eyes of a population terrified by the unprecedented Nazi reaction, German soldiers massacred ten policemen on September 12, 1943. They were only guilty of wearing a uniform.

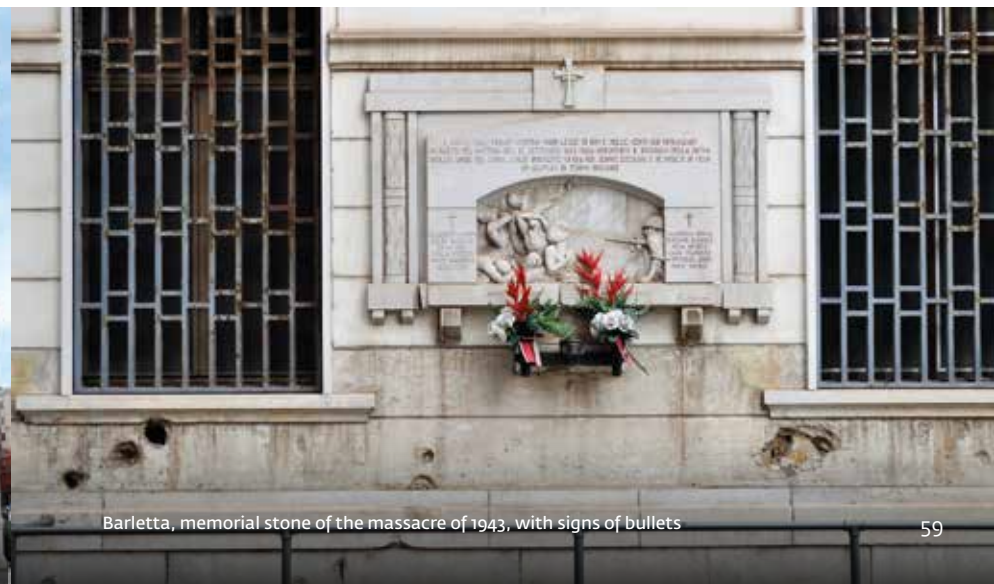


Barletta, Cathedral of Santa Maria Maggiore

During the occupation in the "Città della Disfida" (City of Challenge) there were also other widespread acts of repression: the deportation of the commander of the Military District, Col. Francesco Grasso, along with other officers and soldiers, and a shooting into a crowd near a train that was unloading flour, which was made up of women and children.



Barletta, former Palazzo delle Poste (Post Office building)



Barletta, memorial stone of the massacre of 1943, with signs of bullets

GOLD MEDAL FOR MILITARY VALOR

Date awarded: 07-07-2003

Reason:

"On 8 September 1943, the garrison of Barletta, modestly armed, but aided by the spontaneous and active support of the citizens, decided to continue on the path of honor and loyalty to the country, opposing the fierce German units strenuously and inflicting considerable losses on them. Only on 12 September, after the arrival of overwhelming German reinforcements, the garrison, tested by the losses suffered and under the threat of the destruction of the city, was forced to surrender. The enemy troops, who were occupying Barletta, barbarously slaughtered 13 defenseless citizens in retaliation, whose sacrifice was combined with that of the military in a common desire for freedom. The city of Barletta, a shining example of the virtues of the people of southern Italy, hands over to future generations this testimony to the values arising from the rebirth of the homeland and the victory of democracy and peace. Barletta 8-13 September 1943".

GOLD MEDAL FOR CIVIL MERIT

Date awarded: 08-05-1998

Reason:

"Occupied by the German troops in the aftermath of the armistice, the city became the scene of a courageous and tenacious resistance. The object of a fierce and bloody retaliation, it counted numerous victims among the soldiers of the local garrison and the civilians who, helpless and exhausted by the hardships, in many cases took to arms in the place where they carried out their daily profession. A splendid example of a noble spirit of sacrifice and patriotism. 12-24 September 1943".



Spinazzola, bauxite quarry

**SPINAZZOLA*****Massacre of Murgetta Rossi***

The territory between Spinazzola and Minervino Murge, heart of the Alta Murgia, on the border with Basilicata, is characterized by an evocative and very particular agricultural landscape, by expanses of land used for grazing and for the cultivation of wheat, as well as by some isolated farms. After the armistice of September 8, 1943, this territory was subjected to strict control by Hitler's soldiers, who requisitioned horses and other livestock. The two cities, known for their struggles for freedom and the emancipation of the peasant proletariat (in the center of Minervino stands the monument to Emanuele De Deo, martyr of the Neapolitan revolution of 1799), suffered abuse at the hands of retreating German troops: looting, destruction of road and railroad bridges, structures of the Puglia Aqueduct and killings of unarmed civilians.





Spinazzola, Murgetta Rossi

On September 18, 1943, about 51 kilometers from Barletta, just after the crossroads to Minervino Murge, in the area of Murgetta Rossi, a unit of the Wehrmacht committed one of the most horrendous crimes of the brief but violent occupation of the Alta Murgia. Twenty-two Italian soldiers were captured near the bauxite quarries as they attempted to return to their homes. Transferred to a sheepfold not far from the quarry, they were shot and their bodies hidden under the boundary wall that was blown up. A few days later a local shepherd made the macabre discovery and alerted the authorities of Spinazzola. It was decided to bury the bodies on the spot without delay. Only in March 1945 were the remains of the Italian soldiers transferred to the cemetery of the town of Spinazzola.



Tombstone commemorating the massacre of 1943

FROM THE STATE ARCHIVE OF BARI



In a letter from the end of September 1943, a citizen of Minervino Murge described to a family member the terrorist acts of the Wehrmacht units:

The Germans residing here have taken on a hostile and menacing attitude, they did all sorts of things. They destroyed the post office and telephone exchange, the water main, they blew up the bridges on the carriage roads and on the railway line and they indulged in highway robbery in the countryside and even within the village.



Spinazzola, Murgetta Rossi



BITETTO

Massacre of a unit of the Italian army

Leaving Bari and heading towards the rocky Murgia, we arrive in Bitetto, known as the "City of the Termite Olive" and home to an important regional wildlife observatory.

About one kilometer from the historic center, overlooked by the Romanesque Cathedral of San Michele Arcangelo, near the Convent of the Friars Minor dedicated to the Beato Giacomo, we come across a stone memorial statue testifying to the massacre of 22 Italian soldiers, which took place in the late morning of September 9, 1943.

After word had spread of the seizure of the means of transport by German soldiers, the garrison command of Bari sent an army division that was completely massacred near the Sanctuary. The German violence manifested itself in the barbaric killing of second lieutenant Franco De Liguori, who, wounded by a burst from a machine gun, was finished off by musket fire.



Bitetto, Church of Blessed Mary

GOLD MEDAL FOR CIVIL MERIT



Date awarded: 08-03-1999

Reason:

"Occupied by the German troops in the aftermath of the armistice, the city became the scene of a courageous and tenacious resistance. The object of a ferocious retaliation, it counted numerous victims, but the whole population, proving their indomitable courage, reacted fiercely to the invader, forcing them to flee".



Gravina in Puglia, Ponte Acquedotto



GRAVINA IN PUGLIA

Violence and devastation

Starting from Altamura, in a karst area rich in caves and early medieval rock settlements, after about ten kilometers along the SS 96 you will reach Gravina. In the heart of the city we find the splendid Romanesque Cathedral. On the opposite side there is the hill of Botromagno, a place rich in history (the Magna Graecia city of Sidion and then the Roman city of Silvium). At the foot of the hill spreads a vast necropolis-theater. After September 8, 1943, two young straggling soldiers, trying to reach the city from Pianoro Madonna della Stella through the Ponte Acquedotto bridge (37 meters high, 90 meters long and 5 meters and a half wide), were hit by the fire of the Wehrmacht soldiers. In the violent shooting, Mrs. Domenica Pappalardo, who was on her way to work in the countryside, was also seriously wounded.

Another significant memorial site related to Nazi violence can be found in the heart of the city. By crossing the bridge you will reach the other side, where a charming amusement park, which opened in the late 1960s, is overlooked by the bust of the Gravinese martyr Filippo D'Agostino (a political emigrant to Rome, arrested and deported in January 1944, who ended his days in the Mauthausen extermination camp). Not far away, on Corso Aldo Moro, stands Palazzo Pepe, an early 20th-century manor house, which between 1943 and 1945 housed Slavic partisans freed from various Italian prison camps. In these years, Puglia became a strategic outpost for the liberation of the Balkans. To commemorate the work carried out by the Slavic doctors for the benefit of the civilian population, in 1976 a plaque was unveiled at the Civic Hospital in Via Canio Musacchio.



Gravina in Puglia, Ponte Acquedotto



Gravina in Puglia, wall of the archaeological area



ALTAMURA

Nazi crimes

Continuing the journey by car along the state road 96 (or by train), you will arrive at the ancient city of Altamura, a political and administrative landmark for the surrounding territory.

Altamura, with its extraordinary Romanesque cathedral, the home to one of the first universities in Southern Italy, and the birthplace of the great humanist and writer Tommaso Fiore, was immediately occupied by German troops in the aftermath of the armistice.

With this came a horrendous crime. The Wehrmacht soldiers took Antonio Cannito, a young man of only 16 years old, into custody for refusing to work on fortifications. In addition, between September 11 and 22 there were further killings of disbanded soldiers trying to reach their homes. The whole city was subjected to roundups. Carabinieri reports stressed the destruction of infrastructure. The State Railway and the Calabro-Lucane Railway bridges were blown up with mines, as were the road bridges of the provincial roads towards Cassano and Gravina in Puglia.



Gravina in Puglia, commemorative plaque

THE LIBERATION OF THE BALKANS



Gravina in Puglia, historical center seen from the

As a result of agreements between the Allied occupation forces, Puglia, after September 8, was used for logistical and medical assistance to the Yugoslav liberation army under the command of Tito. At the Tehran conference (November 28 - December 1, 1943) Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin made a commitment to provide Tito's partisans with as much support as possible.

La Puglia dell'accoglienza. Profughi, rifugiati e rimpatriati del Novecento, V.A. Leuzzi - G. Esposito (eds.), Progedit, Bari 2006.



Altamura, Cathedral of the Assumption



The refugee camp between Altamura and Gravina in Puglia

At 5.6 kilometers from the center of Altamura, close to the State Road 96, stood the Refugee Collection Center. The Gravina-Altamura Camp covered a quadrangular area of 307,787 square meters, fenced by barbed wire. The structure was accessed along a 160m long driveway that ended with a wooden gate and four brick pillars.

The former military concentration camp (Prisoner of war Camp No. 65) was transformed into a refugee camp in the last months of 1943 with the Allied occupation. The occupation authorities decided to transfer Yugoslav refugees there (formerly interned in the fascist camps), as well as Tito's partisans fleeing from the other side of the Adriatic. Between 1943 and 1944 a sector of the camp was used for the military training of women and men of the Yugoslav liberation army. These units were organized into the various Overseas Brigades that left from the ports of Bari and Monopoli in the early months of 1944.

After the Liberation, the Camp passed from allied and UNRRA military management to the Ministry of the Interior and, finally, in January 1951, to the Ministry of Defense. The area contained 60 sheds, 22 brick structures, a forecourt, a command building, water mains, an electrical system and a functioning sewer system.



HISTORY OF THE CAMP



After the liberation, the history of the Camp can be divided into two major periods which roughly correspond, to the management of the arrivals of Julian-Dalmatian refugees, especially between 1951 and 1959, and to the management of repatriations from Egypt and Tunisia, although there has never been a clear distinction. The first regulations for the organization of the Center were issued in '54, although a true framework was not developed until '56. Precise schedules were set for health services and the use of showers, offices and the organization of the canteen. The camp was managed by a director assisted by a secretariat and a bursar. Financial management was entrusted to the Banca Agricola Commerciale bank of Altamura, but from '56 it became the responsibility of the Municipal Welfare Board. Entertainment such as magic shows, circuses, film screenings and dance parties were held. The organizational difficulties of an environment created in the span of just a few years were found mainly in the health service; educational activities, however, were quite well taken care of: a regular elementary school course and a kindergarten were established. The Center, by then a Collection Center for fellow countrymen repatriated from Tunisia and Egypt, was closed on August 12, 1962 and handed over to the State on January 30, 1963.



Barletta Castle

Built by the Normans in the second half of the 12th century, it preserves the history of the city in which the famous *Disfida di Barletta* (Challenge of Barletta) was held in 1503.

📞 +39 088 357 86 13



Barletta "Giuseppe De Nittis" Picture Gallery

Palazzo Della Marra, built in the 16th century, houses the works of the impressionist painter Giuseppe De Nittis, a native of Barletta who has become famous all over the world.

📞 +39 088 353 83 72



Trani Cathedral Basilica

Founded at the end of the 11th century. The facade contains a rose window decorated with zoomorphic figures and a double flight of stairs leading to the bronze portal dating back to 1180.

📞 +39 088 350 02 93



Andria Castel del Monte

Frederick's fortress stands on a hill 20 kilometers from Andria and dominates the Alta Murgia National Park. Since 1996 it has been included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage monuments.

📞 +39 088 356 99 97

Altamura The Lamalunga Cave and the Man of Altamura

Characterized by a system of karst cavities and narrow tunnels. After a path of about 60 meters, you will come across a fossil skeleton of a man who lived in the Middle-Upper Pleistocene, known as the Man of Altamura.

📞 +39 339 614 41 64

Altamura Cathedral of the Assumption

One of the four Palatine basilicas in Puglia, built at the behest of Emperor Frederick II around 1230. Its portal is among the richest in the region due to its refined sculptural ornamentation.

📞 +39 080 311 70 04

Alta Murgia National Park

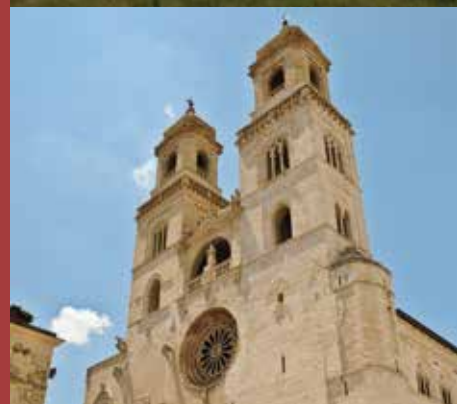
Extending from the Adriatic coast to the Lucanian mountains, it is dotted with dry stone buildings that during transhumance served as a shelter for animals, along with majestic farmhouses.

📞 +39 080 326 22 68

Gravina in Puglia, Pomarici Santomasi Museum

Located in the 17th-century building of the same name in the heart of the historic center of Gravina, it houses a rich and varied museum collection.

📞 +39 080 325 10 21



4 CAPITANATA

Wehrmacht devastation and the concentration camps



"The Germans had killed, one after another, all the poor soldiers who passed that way. They shot them in the enclosure next to the buildings – the traces of blood made it obvious – and then they dragged them, either dead or dying, with a rope to the pit, throwing them to the bottom [...]."

Antonio Bonito

-  Valle Cannella, Candela, Manfredonia, Serracapriola
-  Ascoli Satriano, Candela, Sant'Agata di Puglia, Accadia, Monteleone di Puglia, Serracapriola, Celenza Valfortore
-  Monteleone di Puglia, Manfredonia, Serracapriola
-  Manfredonia, Tremiti Islands, Vieste
-  Tremiti Islands



Itinerary 4

CAPITANATA

Wehrmacht devastation and the concentration camps

After the announcement of the armistice, a systematic and violent destructive campaign was waged by the units of the Wehrmacht throughout southern Daunia on the border with Basilicata, Campania and Molise. Starting from the capital of Daunia, road and railway bridges were bombed and blasted away and military depots and paper mill materials were plundered. In particular the "Dr. Saronio" military chemical center, built in great secrecy during the war, which produced lethal chemicals, was destroyed.

Along the course of the tributaries of the Ofanto and the transhumance routes, massacres and misdeeds were recorded, especially on straggling soldiers who were looking for the path to safety. The grassy roads from the Daunian mountains to the Tavoliere, now obsolete, including the Tratturo Pescasseroli-Candela path, which the great historian of the Mediterranean Fernand Braudel defined as "particularly beautiful and [which] mark[ed] the deep connection between the plain and the mountains", were witnesses to the violence of Hitler's men. Isolated farmhouses, in the **Valle Cannella** district, suffered a horrible massacre and acts of robbery. The access roads to the towns of **Monteleone di Puglia**, **Accadia**, **Sant'Agata di Puglia**, **Ascoli Satriano** and **Candela** were destroyed, with harmful consequences in the long run. These territories, deeply marked by war and by women's revolts against violence and misery, as in **Monteleone di Puglia** in 1942, were transformed by a further exodus to the Americas and to Europe throughout the post-World War II period.

The fast German retreat from Puglia with its heavy burden of destruction and violence against disbanded soldiers and refugees did not spare Foggia, where the paper mill was looted and the "Dr. Saronio" chemical weapons factory was destroyed. The coastal area between Manfredonia and **Vieste** was particularly affected. Several other crimes were also committed by Hitler's soldiers in Torremaggiore and in some inland areas of the Apennines, including **Serracapriola**, **Celenza Valfortore**, Carlantino and Volturara. The towns along the Gargano coast, on the other hand, were important landmarks for Yugoslavs and Jews of different nationalities fleeing from the Nazi terror that raged on the other side of the Adriatic. Many Italian refugees, especially anti-fascists freed from internment camps, tried to cross the lines and save themselves between the Abruzzo and Puglia coasts: actors, writers, journalists, who considered the route by sea safer than traveling across the mainland.

CERIGNOLA *The Valle Cannella massacre*

About 9 kilometers from Cerignola along the road connecting west with the Bari-Naples motorway, about one kilometer from the Sanctuary of the Madonna di Ripalta, you will come across the farmhouse of Valle Cannella, located on a hill overlooking a valley lake crossed by the "Marana di Capacciotti", one of the tributaries of the Ofanto River. In the weeks following the armistice, a reconnaissance unit of the Wehrmacht, after occupying the highlands overlooking the plain below (with alternating arable land and tree crops and with Vulture in the background), identified and captured a group of eleven men, including a former British prisoner of war. The group of disbanded soldiers followed the river, which is mostly dry in summer, to get to safety. After they were captured, all of them were transferred a few hundred meters to the yard in front of the farm, where they were shot and their bodies were hidden in a pit of grain.



Small memorial to the massacre

THE TRAGIC PIT



Valle Cannella Farm

"Santa Maria di Valle Cannella, a white, neat little house on fertile, undulating ground that announces the end of the Tavoliere and makes the Ofanto feel close. At the bottom of the small valley, the Marana flows and along it a very pleasant path leads to a convenient ford in the river. The view is serene, restful and the silence dominates things with the clarity of a bright picture. It was in the midst of such a peaceful setting that a division of German soldiers brought there by the war massacred 11 of our soldiers in cold blood [...]. They had chosen deserted streets to escape the Germans' roundup on the main roads, who needed men for the hard work of building fortifications. The Germans killed one after another, all the poor soldiers of ours who had passed that way. They killed them in the enclosure next to the buildings – the traces of blood made it obvious – and then they dragged them, dead or dying, to the pit with a rope, throwing them to the bottom [...]."

A. Bonito, *La Fossa tragica*, in "Civiltà proletaria, Il Risveglio, L'Italia del Popolo", single issue 25 May 1945, in VA Leuzzi - G. Esposito, 8 September 1943 in *Puglia and Basilicata*, cit., pp. 306-308.

ASCOLI SATRIANO

The territory between the Sanctuary of the Madonna di Ripalta, Borgo della Libertà, Ascoli Satriano and Candela, along a road route of about 25 kilometers, was completely garrisoned by the Germans in the weeks following the armistice.

In Ascoli Satriano, a small town of medieval origins perched on a hill surrounded by woods with a Romanesque cathedral and an imposing 13th-century castle, the Germans made use of observation posts and ancient fortified points to control road and rail links to Naples and Campania, as well as the transhumance routes towards Molise and Abruzzo.

In this strategic area, in the last week of September, the retreating Germans blew up the Puglia Aqueduct and the small railway station.

On September 26, before leaving the city for good, in the face of yet another vehicle seizure, the people of Ascoli protested and engaged in a hard clash with a Wehrmacht unit, in the course of which there were deaths and injuries, including the young Antonio Silano. The German unit retreated to "Porcile" beyond the Carapelle river, from where it began to target the city with cannon shots, causing a massacre involving some women and several children.

The immediate intervention of Archbishop Msgr. Vittorio Consiglioeri, who headed straight towards the Germans, had the effect of putting an end to the fire. During the negotiation some dispatches from the Eighth English army reached Ascoli and brought about the surrender of the German soldiers.



CANDELA

Driving along the state road 655 from Ascoli Satriano to Candela for about 14 kilometers, you will come across this traditional town in southern Daunia, which is of medieval origin and rich in religious architecture including the Mother Church dating back to the 16th century. The city of Candela, known for being one of the stopover points of transhumance from Abruzzo to Puglia, did not escape the fury of the Nazis who concentrated some of their troops here to hinder the Anglo-American advance.

The first episodes of violence from the German troops were recorded at the end of September 1943. They began to systematically undermine the state and railway infrastructures, with the pointless killing of the worker Giuseppe Guarrito and the fifteen-year-old Sabino Miccoli. A few days later a worker named Giacomo Garofalo, who was trying to reach the town from the surrounding countryside, was captured and shot. The death toll, however, worsened on November 15: on the road to Foggia a bus blew up on one of the land mines cleverly hidden at the edge of the roadway, causing 15 deaths.



Memorial plaque to the victims of the land mine explosion, 1949.



SANT'AGATA DI PUGLIA

From Candela to Sant'Agata di Puglia, drive along the provincial road 101 that climbs upwards for 16 kilometers. The town, which is known as *La loggia delle Puglie*, at 794 meters above sea level, has a well-preserved historical district and a Norman-era castle that overlooks the Tavoliere plain. Here too, the retreating Germans sabotaged the access routes.

ACCADIA

Continuing along the provincial road, after 12.6 kilometers you will arrive in Accadia, a small town that stands on the Roman ruins of the ancient "Eca", which is distinguished by its traditional homes carved out of the rock and by caves probably dating back to the Neolithic era. The access roads to the town were also bombed in Accadia.





MONTELEONE DI PUGLIA

About 9.2 kilometers from Accadia, on the border with Irpinia, we find Monteleone di Puglia, the highest town in the region, and the destination of transhumance from Abruzzo to Puglia, where you can still find traces of the ancient sheep trail.

In August 1942, there was an all-female uprising in the town against the war, against worsening living conditions and against the fascist authorities. At the beginning of October 1943 the young Roccantonio Addorisio was blown up while trying to remove the danger of a land mine placed by the Germans on the access road to the village. Only recently, based on the documents found in the municipal archive, the mayor of Monteleone di Puglia has recovered the memory of the tragic events following the armistice and the terrorist activity of the German units in all the towns on the border with Irpinia.



Mural commemorating the 1942 uprising

MANFREDONIA

Nazi occupation

Leaving from Foggia in a south-east direction, about 37 kilometers away you will find Siponto, located at the foot of the Gargano in the wide inlet, and ancient nucleus of the city of Manfredonia, with its sanctuary dedicated to Santa Maria Maggiore.

From the south, along the path that runs alongside the sea, on the afternoon of September 9, 1943, a unit of the Wehrmacht broke into the heart of the city, shooting wildly and fatally wounding a three-year-old boy. Strategic points were soon occupied and in particular the huge Castle of Swabian origin, which was positioned to guard the port. A sailor on duty returned fire and wounded a German soldier who was taken to hospital and died late in the evening. The following day, the Germans completed their occupation and disarmed the nuclei of Italian soldiers stationed in various buildings and warehouses.

During the war, the port was an important hub for military operations and for sending supplies to the Italian army engaged in the Balkans.

On September 11, following the death of one of their comrades, the Germans sank some barges and, later, threatened a bloody reprisal that was only averted thanks to the prompt intervention of the Archbishop, Msgr. Andrea Cesarano.



Manfredonia, lighthouse

DOCUMENTS



Manfredonia, Basilica of Siponto - Metallic installation by E. Tresoldi

Honor to the Bishop of Manfredonia
(Msgr. Andrea Cesarano, May 22, 1944)

"During the period of the German occupation of Manfredonia, from the September 9 to 26, 1943, scorning any possible threat, he lovingly did his best and rushed wherever human lives were in danger. Under aerial bombardments and machine-gun fire, placing himself with arms wide open before a machine-gun station ready to fire on the crowd, he saved many human lives, helped fugitives, and managed to prevent destruction and ruin with bloody consequences. A wonderful example of self-sacrifice and of the highest Christian virtue."

VA Leuzzi - G. Esposito, *L'8 settembre 1943 in Puglia e Basilicata*, cit., p. 298.

The destruction suffered by the city was the subject of a detailed report of the Territorial Legion of the Royal Carabinieri of Bari - Manfredonia Station, Occupation of the City, report dated October 4, 1945.

"During their stay, the Germans in Manfredonia occupied all the premises of the internment camp, freeing the internees themselves and taking possession of all the material found there. They considerably damaged this port with cannon shots and had two important iron bridges demolished: one was the Candelaro bridge on the Manfredonia-Foggia railway line and the other was the Beccarini bridge, which connects the Manfredonia countryside to the roads leading to the city. Other bridges, also made of iron, were demolished on the Zapponeta-Manfredonia provincial road, all causing a serious obstacle to communications with Manfredonia."

Provincial Library of Foggia, Carte M. Simone, in *L'8 settembre 1943 in Puglia e Basilicata*, cit., p. 288.

Manfredonia Concentration Camp

The camp was set up in the recently completed building of the municipal slaughterhouse in June 1940. It was just over 1 kilometer away from the center of Manfredonia, not far from the sea and the train station. So it could be used as a concentration camp, toilets, electrical systems and internal partitions were installed. Twenty rooms were created, half of which were used as dormitories.

According to Viviano Iazzetti's research, several hundred prisoners passed through the camp, which was closed in July 1943, with an average daily presence of 170, including Jews of different nationalities. The internment regime was particularly rigorous, also due to the presence of a large group of Italian anti-fascists, already condemned by the special tribunal.

A small library and vegetable garden were set up at the camp. The Archbishop of Manfredonia, Msgr. Andrea Cesarano, donated books and assigned a priest for the celebration of mass. One of the peculiar aspects of the camp was that it acted as a transit point for the internees from the Tremiti islands. At the beginning of June 1943, Spartaco Capogreco argues, three contingents of Yugoslav and Italian anti-fascists were transferred from Manfredonia to Ferramonti.

In September 1943, after the armistice, a group of ex-Yugoslav prisoners was still present.

See CS Capogreco, *I campi del duce*, Einaudi, Turin 2002, pp. 238-239.



Manfredonia, one of the entrances to Camp



VIESTE

Refugees massacre

The coastal road, which appears to be suspended over the sea, connects Manfredonia to Vieste in just over 54 kilometers, with cliffs and enchanting beaches, often not accessible from the mainland. The route by sea from the port of Manfredonia to Vieste, about 18 nautical miles long, is one of the most stunning. This is how the writer Riccardo Bacchelli describes it in a report from Manfredonia to the Tremiti islands:

The coastline, steeped by the sea and the earthquakes, is a marvelous succession of caves and tall natural arches, carved into a white rock of a warm yellowish whiteness over the dark blue sea, over which the wind, the sun, the wake, and the last seagulls played, following us to the mouth of the port.



The city is dominated by the magnificent Swabian castle overlooking the sea, which is still used by the Navy for its strategic location, and the small port, with a dock built in the thirties. In the days following the armistice it was a landing place for fishing boats and barges loaded with Italian soldiers and refugees fleeing from Yugoslavia.

The resistance by a battalion of Carabinieri was important. It arrived from Yugoslavia on September 16, 1943, and refused to surrender its weapons to German soldiers. After a firefight in the night, they left the city. The next day an entire Nazi convoy made up of armored cars burst in, causing widespread looting. Continuous air raids occurred over the next few days.

YUGOSLAV REFUGEES



On September 24, numerous Yugoslavian refugees attempted to land at Vieste. They were spotted by German planes, which violently broke up the group. Many of the refugees perished, others, though injured, managed to reach the shore and were promptly rescued and helped by the citizens of Vieste. Towards 10 a.m. of the same September 24, the Germans waged a machine-gun attack on the city and killed:

Lobascio Michele fu Matteo. *Carabiniere*
 Father Giulio Gadaleta Felice of the *Capuchin Fathers of Molfetta*
 Olivieri Pasquale De Filippo. *Civilian*
 Todariello Michele di Giovanni. *Agent of the State Railway*
 Oliviero Vincenzo fu Antonio. *Barber*
 Milani Michele. *Soldier I Sec. Disinfezione P.M.* 41.

See A. Pedretti, *La lunga vigilia della libertà. Antifascismo e resistenza in Capitanata*, Foggia 1970, pp. 71-72.

TESTIMONIES



Vieste, Old Town

Francesco Callari, journalist and screenwriter, collaborator at Radio Bari. After having rented a sailboat, he managed to reach the port despite immense difficulties.

In the late morning, off the coast of Vieste, the two small boats, with about two hundred people crammed in, were spotted by a German air squadron that launched intense machine-gun fire. The two boats approached the cliffs and many desperate people were saved thanks to the help of the citizens of Vieste. The sea brought other dead bodies to shore for days. [...]

After three nights and two days, now with a calm sea and a fair land-bound wind, surviving a furious mistral and escaping the sight of the German scouts, we reached Vieste on the Gargano. Vieste was full of refugees, soldiers and Jews who fled from Albania and Dalmatia. Thrown against the right hand side of the ship, we rose up with our faces bloodied, shaking off a Capuchin friar who was nearby, dead, his chest ripped open; looking around, one of our friends has disappeared, the other one was dripping with blood from all sides; across the rest of the ship, other mangled bodies. We could hear screams of terror. The sea had not been our friend. Having recovered from a slight wound to the forehead, a few days later, under a slate sky, as gloomy as a shroud, we resumed our journey in the direction of Foggia.

See F. Callari, *Giorni duri*, in "Mercurio", a. I, no. 4, December 1944.



SERRACAPRIOLA and CELENZA VALFORTORE

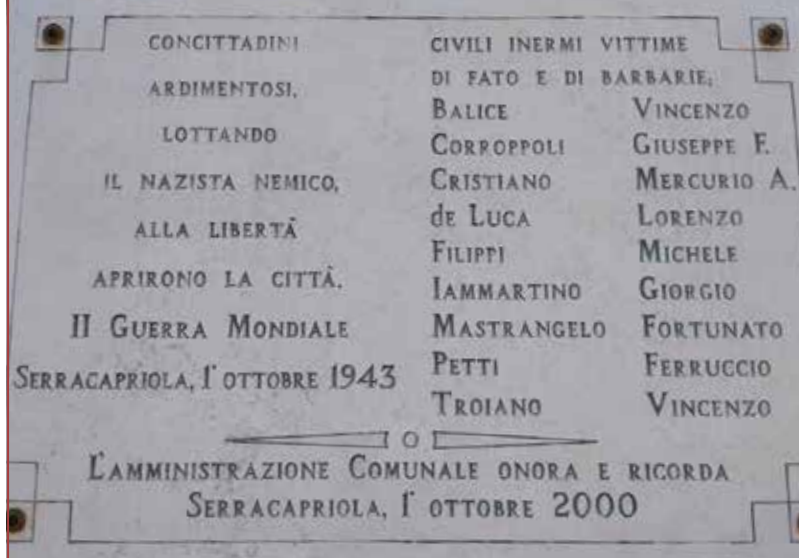
In these two places on the border with Molise – the first about 60 kilometers from the capital of Dauno, the second about 48 kilometers – the retreating Germans committed their final crimes in the first days of October 1943.

In **Serracapriola**, a town in the Gargano National Park, located on a hill overlooking a very special landscape featuring the Fortore river, a German unit of the Engineer Corps bombed the town's streets, the agricultural consortium and the Aqueduct's water tower. A squad of civilians, led by an army officer, stood on the main street of the town to prevent looting. A fire fight took place in which several civilians were wounded. The support given by the population, along with the arrival of vanguards of the Eighth English Army, forced the Germans to retreat. Radio London announced the next day that the country had been liberated with the valuable help of the citizenry.



Serracapriola, city center

VICTIMS



The memorial stone commemorating (some of) the Fallen from October 1, 1943 in Serracapriola, located on Via Cavalier de Luca on the main street of the town (source: Michele Caccavone, Provincial ANPI (National Association of Partisans of Italy) Archive, Foggia).

Several victims of a mine explosion were reported to the Agricultural Consortium immediately after the German retreat:

Vincenzo Balice, born in Serracapriola on 27-8-1886

Antonio Cordisco, born in Rocchetta Sant'Antonio on 24-10-1900

Giuseppe F. Carroppoli, born in Serracapriola on 9-11-1908

Mercurio A. Cristiano, born in Serracapriola on 26-11-1926

Antonio D'Onofrio, born in Serracapriola on 10-2-1896

Vincenzo De Leonardis, born in Serracapriola on 14-12-1899

Lorenzo De Luca, born in Serracapriola on 14-12-1899

Michele Filippi, born in Serracapriola on 19-7-1898. Prefectural Commissioner

Fortunato Mastrangelo, born in Serracapriola on 20-9-1899

Ferruccio Petti, born in Serracapriola on 11-11-1911

Vincenzo Troiano, born in Serracapriola on 2-8-1878.

A. Pedretti, *La lunga vigilia della libertà. Antifascismo e resistenza in terra di Capitanata*, Municipality of Foggia, Foggia 1970.



Celenza Valfortore, in northern Daunia, stands on a hill on the border with Molise and overlooks Lake Occhitto, an artificial reservoir of the Fortore river. It is characterized by a stunning agrarian landscape with woods and grassy expanses. At the beginning of October 1943, the retreating German units undertook requisitions of livestock and extensive roundups throughout the territory of Celenza. They also sabotaged the access roads to the town. In the Gambacorta district a farmer, Vincenzo Codianni, was captured and shot in this exercise of control over the territory. On October 5, during the demining operations led by a non-commissioned army officer, Nicola Sernia, German artillery fired repeatedly on the town and on the Tredici Archi-Celenza road. In the course of these dangerous operations to ward off the dangers of mines there were several victims, including the valiant army marshal, who was awarded a medal for valor.

MEDAL FOR MILITARY VALOR

Motivation for the awarding of the medal for military valor to Marshal Nicola Sernia:

"...At dawn on October 5, at the head of a group of patriots, he attacked a cell of Germans who were lagging behind and after violent hand-to-hand combat he managed to overwhelm them, unblocking the Tredici Archi-Celenza road. Although wounded and exhausted by the fight, sustained by indomitable will and under enemy artillery fire he disarmed the mines that obstructed the road and in a brave effort he met a glorious end. A precursor of the partisan organizations and a shining example of military virtues".

V.A. Leuzzi - G. Esposito, *In cammino per la libertà*, Edizioni dal Sud, Bari 2008.

TREMITI ISLANDS

Concentration Camp

Leaving from the port of Manfredonia (or from the port of Vieste), after about 64 kilometers you will reach the island of San Domino, which together with the island of San Nicola (just over a mile long and 450 meters wide) and three other uninhabited islets, make up the archipelago of the Tremiti Islands.

Landing in the Tremiti, however, always has something endearing about it. The islands come towards you in circles, as if to relieve you after a scare, but with a hint of ironic pity. Three islands, three different personalities, and in the middle a rock crumbling gold sand into the surrounding water. Three islands, three different aspects of this multiform and synthetic Gargano and Italian landscape. San Nicola, where there is the largest group of houses, perched on steep cliffs, is certainly the most populated island. It is where the odor and stench of the traffic of human history persists the most, in a sort of convoluted stratification, like geological eras. [...] The stretch of sea that runs from San Nicola to San Domino is no wider than any Gargano square, where the weekly market usually takes place. The stretch of water that goes from the small port of San Nicola to the beach of San Domino evokes the image of a market place. While the space between them is short, the gap in time that lends the two islands their different physiognomies is immense.

P. Soccio, Gargano segreto, Adda, Bari 1965.



Tremiti islands, Island of San Nicola

TESTIMONIES



The Tremiti Islands Camp inflicted terrible living conditions on its internees. Mario Magri, who arrived there from Ponza, wrote to his wife as follows:

No trees. Not even a little green. Just bare rock and a few crumbling dormitories. You could walk between the two towers, in front of its population, about one hundred souls, who lived in shacks and in the rooms below the dormitories in a truly appalling state of misery, dirtiness and promiscuity. There were no sewers or toilets, even in the dormitories. All the waste was either left in the middle of the streets or dumped into the sea from the top of a seawall. Since the cliff was not completely flat, all that filth stuck to the cliffs like an obscene paint job and especially in the summer the smell was truly nauseating. When the wind blew, and this is something that happened very often, the paper that had been thrown on the rocks would flutter back into the colony and pile up like dry leaves in autumn, on street corners. There was no water, only five liters a day. Keeping clean was a very difficult thing to do, and qw would steal water to wash some of our laundry, but that was far from easy.

S. Corvisieri, La villeggiatura di Mussolini, Baldini Castoldi Dalai, Milan 2004.



In the twentieth century, during the war in Libya (1911), the Tremiti Islands were used to confine a thousand Libyans hostile to the Italian occupation, almost half of whom died of typhus. Two decades later, they became the site of a penal colony and remained so during the fascist period. Between 1927 and 1943 they were a deportation site for political opponents to the regime, sentenced by the Special Tribunal to several years of confinement. Finally, during the Second World War, the border colony was used as a *concentration camp* for enemy soldiers, *dangerous Italians* including several Jews, Yugoslavs from the border areas, Albanians, as well as those belonging to religions other than Catholicism. Prisoners stayed on the island of San Nicola, while internees stayed on the island of San Domino. The total estimated capacity was 815 people. The concentration camp of the Tremiti Islands could rely, finally, on the building of the former town hall of San Domino, a two-story building. The upper floor was used as accommodation for public security agents. Among others, Ferruccio Parri, the first Prime Minister after the liberation, and Sandro Pertini, President of the Republic from 1978 to 1985 stayed for a short period on the Tremiti Islands.



Tremiti Islands

IN MEMORY



Tremiti Islands, memorial to the Italian prisoners

The small monument erected in the square near the avenue where the internees were housed, by the Neapolitan sculptor Raffaele Fienca, is of great importance. The epigraph on the base of the sculpture reads:

"IN MEMORY OF THE BRAVE ITALIANS WHO FOR THEIR LOVE OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE WERE CONFINED TO THIS ISLAND DURING THE DARK YEARS OF FASCIST TYRANNY."

The inauguration, organized by A.N.P.I.A. (Associazione Nazionale Perseguitati Politici Italiani Antifascisti - National Association of Persecuted Italian Anti-Fascist Politicians), in collaboration with the Provincial Administration of Terni and the Communes of Narni, Terni and Sangemini, was held on May 24, 1980.



Cerignola Wheat Museum

The museum tour follows the phases of wheat processing in the early 20th century, from stubble burning to plowing with oxen and horses, to milling and processing.

📞 +39 088 361 24 23

Ascoli Satriano Museum Hub

It houses the Civic Museum, the Diocesan Museum and the permanent exhibition "Polychromies of the Sublime", which includes the famous Trapezophoros of the Griffins.

📞 +39 088 565 17 56

Santa Maria Maggiore of Siponto (installation by Edoardo Tresoldi)

Example of Puglia's Romanesque architecture with Islamic influences. Excavations have brought to light the remains of an early Christian basilica, reconstructed with a wire mesh installation by the artist Edoardo Tresoldi.

📞 +39 088 458 18 44

Margherita of Savoy The Saltworks

Consisting of a vast expanse of calm water divided into tanks for the production of sea salt, it is the largest saltworks in Italy and one of the largest in the entire Mediterranean basin.

📞 +39 088 365 75 19

Vieste Cathedral Basilica

Dedicated to St. Mary of the Assumption, it was built in the second half of the year 1000 and rebuilt several times following the numerous raids and lootings by the Saracens.

📞 +39 088 470 80 78

The Umbra Forest

Located on the Gargano promontory, inside the National Park, the Umbra Forest encompasses the territory of Vico del Gargano, Vieste and Monte Sant'Angelo. Since 2017, the old beech woods have been a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site.

📞 +39 088 456 09 44

Monte Sant'Angelo Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo

One of the most famous places dedicated to the Archangel in the world, along the route of the ancient Via Sacra Langobardorum, was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in June 2011.

📞 +39 088 456 11 50

Tremiti Islands

At 12 nautical miles off the northern coast of the Gargano, it is the only archipelago in the region, considered a true paradise for its seabed, caves and unspoiled landscape.

📞 +39 088 470 88 06



5 LOWER SALENTO

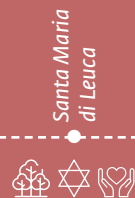
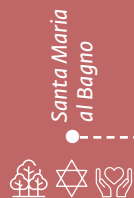
Refugees and emigrants after September 8, 1943



"It was the end of the war.
I arrived in Leuca with my mother
and four brothers
and we spent a very hot summer here. [...]
The big pier wasn't there yet
and the harbor consisted of a few fishing boats.
But the sea and the wild beautiful nature
of the coast still offer
the same grandiose image
that suggests the eternity of life."

Father Antonio Corrado Morciano, Franciscan

-  Santa Maria di Leuca
-  Tricase Porto
-  Santa Cesarea Terme
-  Santa Maria al Bagno





Itinerary 5

LOWER SALENTO

Refugees and emigrants after September 8, 1943

The beginning of the swift German retreat from Puglia, punctuated by many destructive acts, began from the promontory of **Punta Mèliso** and from the **Basilica del Santuario de Finibus Terrae**, the far tip of the Salento peninsula. In the late evening of September 8, Wehrmacht units blew up two military control posts in the **Strait of Otranto**, located near the **Leuca lighthouse**. In the early hours of the following morning, a few kilometers away, on the heights of **Montesardo**, along the Leuca-Lecce provincial road, they destroyed a powerful radio antenna capable of communicating with the Balkan area and the Mediterranean.

From the next day, Salento was the first area in the region to be completely free from Nazis. After a few weeks, this strip of land became a place of **salvation** for many refugees, Yugoslavs, Albanians, Greeks, especially Jews of different nationalities fleeing the Nazi terror on the other side of the Adriatic. Between the end of 1943 and the beginning of 1947 the whole coast North of **Santa Maria di Leuca** towards Otranto, including **Tricase Porto** and **Santa Cesarea**, and west towards Gallipoli, in particular **Santa Maria al Bagno**, was turned into a huge refugee camp managed by the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) and Anglo-American military authorities.



Santa Maria di Leuca, Sanctuary of Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae



Santa Maria di Leuca, former Scarciglia colony

SANTA MARIA DI LEUCA **Refugee camp**

Traveling along the highway from Bari to Lecce, after taking the state road to Leuca, past Castrignano del Capo, the last town in the Salento peninsula, you will come across the hamlet of Santa Maria di Leuca (Finibus Terrae), which Luigi Corvaglia, in his *Finibusterre*, describes as follows:

The gigantic skeletal Cape lies within the malice of a turquoise sea. The wind sweeps it and the rain washes it away; the bald rock crawls to the sea. The scourged, pink beaches (almost as though gnawed on by the sea) stretch out within a violent light that illuminates them without shadows.

In the early days of 1944, in the premises of the former Scarciglia colony, at the foot of the lighthouse, a refugee camp was set up under the control of UNRRA, *Camp no. 35*. The premises of the former colony were turned into a hospital where the sick, wounded and women who had recently given birth were brought from various refugee camps in the Salento area, assisted by the Salesian Sisters and Slavic nurses. Until December 1944, the camp habitually hosted 2,500 to 3,000 Slavic refugees, housed in villas requisitioned from local noblemen. Ten or more were housed in each room. Starting in 1945, Slavic refugees began to leave for Africa and Jewish refugees, mostly from Germany, began to arrive with their burden of suffering and horrific experiences. They also welcomed women who had given birth in the Salento camps. Between 1945 and 1947 many children were born whose birth certificates are kept in the registry office of the municipality of Castrignano del Capo.



TESTIMONIES



Santa Maria di Leuca, Villa Meridiana

In a chronicle of the "Convent and Parish of Christ the King - Marina di Leuca" by Father Anselmo Raguso of the Friars Minor, this is how the arrival of the Slavic refugees is described:

On the Saturday evening after the Epiphany, January 8, the first Slavic refugees arrived. On Sunday morning there were lots of people about, they saw the Church and came in. The news, perhaps of the nativity scene, even brought the Orthodox as well as many women, especially young women, almost all dressed in pants with military uniforms, the British type. In the evening after the Eucharistic blessing they told their story. Don Antonio Cencic, from Parrocchia [Yugoslavian coast] and sent by the partisans, was put on a boat, taken to Bari and from there to Leuca. From day one, D. Antonio volunteered for religious service at the hospital.

[...] In the meantime, people began to say that the Jews were going to come, and in fact, in early October, the Jews arrived, mostly from Germany, and all those who stammered a little Italian (and whom it was possible to approach), recounted horrifying scenes of the suffering under Nazi rule. Even with the Jews, nothing happened that disturbed the peace.

Father Anselmo Raguso, *I campi profughi di Santa Maria di Leuca e di Bari*, in V.A. Leuzzi - G. Esposito, *La Puglia dell'accoglienza. Profughi, rimpatriati e rifugiati nel Novecento*, Progedit, Bari 2006, pp. 319 and ss.

Another significant testimony from the refugee camp of Leuca is contained in the work of a Polish Jew, Edgar Wildfeuer, *Auschwitz 174.189. Testimonio de un sobreviviente*, Cordoba 1994. The dramatic story of this Polish Jew, who miraculously passed unharmed through various concentration and work camps and managed to reach the "heel of Italy", finding a welcome in Leuca, stirred Argentinean public opinion. In 1947, Wildfeuer, after the closure of the Leuca refugee camp, was transferred to the Palese Camp on the outskirts of Bari, enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering in the capital of Puglia and met a Jewish girl who he married after he moved to Latin America for good in 1948.

TESTIMONIES



Remembrance of Prof. Lustig Daniel:

It was the end of the war. I arrived in Leuca with my mother and four brothers and we spent a very hot summer here. At that time the British had created a place of reception in S. Maria di Leuca for the survivors of the concentration camps who flocked to Italy to then emigrate to Palestine, America and other countries. We, on the other hand, came from Muro Lucano in Basilicata where we were confined during the war. We lived in a very pretty little villa on the hill, given to us by the English who had seized it from the Italians. We spent most days at the beach playing with the fishermen's boys. There was a fairly high cliff there from which we would dive and swim across the bay to a certain point that I can no longer find. Everything has changed. The big pier wasn't there yet and the harbor consisted of a few fishing boats. However, the sea and the wildly beautiful nature of the coast still offer the same grandiose image that suggests the eternity of life.

Father Antonio Corrado Morciano, Franciscan, *I profughi a Leuca negli anni 1943-1947. Aspetti civili e religiosi*, Editrice Salentina, Galatina 2018, p. 47.

TRICASE PORTO *Refugee camp*

Leaving from Santa Maria di Leuca, following the road along the coast dotted with inlets overlooking the sea and caves, you will arrive at Tricase Porto, about twenty kilometers away. Between 1944 and 1945, the stately villas overlooking the harbor and the Casotto del porto – characterized by a Museum of boats and seafaring art – were requisitioned to set up *Campo D.P. n. 39*.

Between spring and summer 1945, after the announcement of the German surrender and on the basis of agreements between the Allies and the Italian and Albanian governments, hundreds of Jews, together with Italian civilians and military, left Durazzo and landed in Bari to then settle in Tricase Porto.

Even today signs of the dramatic events of the Jews rescued from Albania can be found on the external façade of some villas and inside them., an event in some ways unique in the complex story of anti-Semitism and persecution throughout the Balkan area.

Their arrival and stay in *Camp No. 39*, along with other Jewish survivors of the death camps, have recently been the subject of extensive memoir reconstruction.

It was a strict code of honor, the "Besa," that decreed the salvation of several hundred Jews who had taken refuge in "eagle country." The role of this "sacred" custom, which required the protection and preservation of one's guest, also allowed many Italian soldiers and civilians to escape the German deportations after the armistice, thanks to the help offered by peasant families in the hinterland of Albania, mostly of Islamic religion. This particular aspect of solidarity between Albanians, Jews of different nationalities and Italians found early and significant success in free Puglia. Many Jews decided to stay in Tricase.



TESTIMONIES



Mrs. Golda Blanaru Sparasci, who moved to Tricase from Bucharest with her mother and a sister in November 1945, at the age of 17, after arriving in Bari, has clear memories of that winter 66 years ago. They were the most beautiful of her life after the years of violent racial persecution in Romania:

For us that winter was a beautiful season. We were rushing about. The tricasini were amazed to see us like this. I was comfortable, at ease. Then they all gradually left. My parents moved to Brazil.

A Polish Jew, Ron Unger, born in Tarnow, after having spent his childhood in the ghetto and in various concentration camps, liberated in May 1945, arrived in Italy from Austria and after a brief stay in Ancona was transferred for a few months to Santa Cesarea and then to Tricase Porto. He emigrated to the United States in the late 1940s and settled in New York. He recounts the stay in Camp 39 in his memoirs thus:

We were housed in pleasant apartments, some in beautiful villas. There were educational, cultural and professional courses. Many street theater companies would come and even professors would come to lecture. While I was living in Italy, a very interesting thing happened. Italy became a republic. It was the first time I had attended democratic elections.

E. Morciano, *Ebrei a Tricase Porto (1945-1947)*, Edizioni Grifo, Lecce 2009.



S. Cesarea Terme, Villa Sticchi



SANTA CESAREA TERME *Refugee camp*

Driving along the coastal road from Tricase Porto towards Otranto, after about 20 kilometers you will arrive in Santa Cesarea, located at the mouth of the Strait of Otranto and dotted with coastal towers. The city, rich in hot springs and sulfurous waters that flow from certain caves, known for its healing mud, houses a museum of the sea and a museum of the clocks of the civic towers. The city center has a viewpoint overlooking the sea and some Moorish palaces built between the 19th and early 20th century.

Between 1943 and 1944 most noble palaces were occupied by refugees, in particular Yugoslavs and especially Jews of different nationalities. Other premises along the main street were requisitioned, used for religious, associational and political activities. The signs of the presence of Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi terror that raged on the other side of the Adriatic are still visible today on the facade of a modern pastry shop, Porta d'Oriente café, where the following words can be read: "Union of workers of Israel", "For emigration, work, defense", "Refettorio", which indicate the headquarters of an important political-religious organization, existing in Palestine. Some very elderly witnesses hold firmly to the memory of refugees, particularly Jews from various Nazi concentration camps and eager to emigrate to Israel.



TESTIMONIES



S. Cesarea Terme, Villa Sticchi

Edith (Esther) Rymald Horowitz was a German Jew who was deported with her mother to several concentration camps, including Mauthausen, while her father was destined for forced labor and died in Auschwitz. After the liberation, the Americans transferred Edith and her mother to Salzburg and from there to Modena and Bari, with their final destination in the spa town of Lower Salento. In 1946 Edith emigrated to Israel and then two years later to the United States. This is how she remembers her stay in Salento:

We stayed in Santa Cesarea until our departure in 1946. We only had men's shoes and because of that we injured our feet because the shoes were terrible. I joined the Gordonia movement where there were religious and non-religious members (non-traditionalist Zionists). I really liked Santa Cesarea and the people who lived there. For example, there was an Italian who worked at the post office and who had a daughter named Ada. They gave us clothes that came from Hungary and Ada's mother made me a sweater with a skirt. We went to the sea very often. I already knew how to swim. We lived in the upper part of the town near the church. We lived in three rooms: my mother and I stayed in one, in one there were Yugoslavs who could not return to their homeland and in one there lived an Italian family. In Santa Cesarea my mother remarried and I ran away with the group to Castelgandolfo where Gordonia was based. From there they took us near Genoa for Aliyah Bet (clandestine emigration).

[<profughiereinpuglia.it>](http://profughiereinpuglia.it)



SANTA MARIA AL BAGNO

Refugee camp

Located on the Ionian coast, Santa Maria al Bagno (a hamlet of Nardò, 30 kilometers from the capital) is just over 56 kilometers from Santa Maria di Leuca, on the state road towards Gallipoli-Lecce. This fishing village, as well as a renowned seaside resort, borders the marine park of Porto Selvaggio and is known for the fresh water spring that flows among the remains of a complex of four defensive towers from the 16th century (Torre del Fiume di Galatena).

Between the end of 1943 and the beginning of 1947, Santa Maria al Bagno was the first and largest refugee camp managed by UNRRA in the whole Salento area. Initially, Yugoslavs and Jews of different nationalities were displaced, fleeing the Nazi terror on the other side of the Adriatic. After the end of the war, German, Austrian, Polish, Romanian, Macedonian and Greek Jews arrived in Santa Maria, survivors of the Nazi deportations of the Third Reich.

Most of the houses, in particular the noble villas, were requisitioned for the complex organization of the Jewish community. In the camp there was a synagogue, a canteen, a kibbutz, and various educational activities were organized. The younger boys attended the primary school running in Santa Maria al Bagno, the older ones were placed in the schools of Nardò. Many weddings were also celebrated.



Santa Maria al Bagno, Le quattro colonne

TESTIMONIES



Paolo Pisacane on the good relationships between the Nardò people and the Jews:

The local boys familiarized themselves almost immediately with the Jewish boys and girls. They attended all the parties, especially when there was dancing or a chance to taste the desserts that were prepared. During their stay they celebrated, and not only within their community, about 400 marriages, one of them between a local girl Giulia My and Zivi Miller, the author of the three Murals that are still well-preserved.

Miriam R. Moskowitz, a Polish Jew from Lodz, was deported in 1939 to various locations in Poland with her parents and three brothers. In 1941 she was first transferred to Krupe (where she was separated from her family, who she never saw again), then to the Rejowietz ghetto and in 1943, together with 500 women, to Czesochowa, to an ammunition factory. In January 1945 she was liberated by the Russians, left Poland and reached Salzburg where she was welcomed for a few months in a refugee camp. From Austria she reached Bologna and then Santa Maria al Bagno:

With my terrible past behind me, alone in the world, I was held in the embrace of the people of S. Maria, with warmth and love. The people there in those days were very poor, like me, but they had so much love to give. For us they were like the sisters and brothers we had lost during the war. I joined a Kibbutz, with my poor Italian friends and with the children waiting for food. With the sadness of my war years behind me, the people and the beauty of S. Maria al Bagno gave me hope to come back to life. I was 19. I joined a theater company and took part in a performance. There I met my soul mate, my husband. He was the director of the theater: we were very sad when we left S. Maria al Bagno to be transferred to the temporary residence camp in Bari. From Bari we then went to Florence, where I attended school and courses for fashion designers. At school I learned Italian and a little English. I married my husband in 1947 in Rome, in the Campidoglio. Later, we also celebrated the wedding with a religious rite in Paris, where I met up with two of my uncles. On November 21, 1949, we left by ship for the United States.

P. Pisacane, "Il Campo profughi di Santa Maria al Bagno, in *La Puglia dell'accoglienza*, cit., pp. 146-148.

GOLD MEDAL FOR CIVIL MERIT

Date awarded: 25-01-2005

Reason:

"In the years between 1943 and 1947, the Municipality of Nardò, in order to provide the necessary assistance to the Jews freed from the extermination camps, on their way to the nascent State of Israel, set up a center of exemplary efficiency in its territory. The whole population, in the wake of religious and cultural tolerance, worked together on this generous action taken to alleviate the suffering of the exiles, and, in offering facilities to allow them to freely practice their religion, demonstrated the highest sentiment of human solidarity and civic virtue."

More than half a century later, the letters that still periodically arrive from the United States, Israel or some European countries to families from Nardò, at that time in solidarity with a mass of desperate people who found refuge in Puglia, confirm the deep feelings of gratitude of the Jews hosted in the refugee camp.

For many contemporary Israeli writers, Puglia and in particular the small fishing villages of the Salento peninsula represented the historical place of salvation. Samuel Goetz, a Polish Jew, in his autobiographical novel, *Non ho visto mai la mia faccia*, testifies to the turning point of his troubled existence in Santa Maria al Bagno, when he managed to forget "the squalor of the concentration camps".





Santa Maria di Leuca Basilica Santuario di Santa Maria de Finibus Terrae

It stands on the ruins of an ancient pagan temple: destroyed several times by Turkish raids, in 1507 it took on its current appearance at the behest of the Del Balzo nobles.

📞 +39 0833 75 86 36

Santa Maria di Leuca Sea caves

The Ionian and Adriatic coast has plenty of caves, mostly accessible by boat. They are interesting from a scenic and historical point of view, and they were also used as a place of refuge by Basilian monks in the Middle Ages.

📞 +39 0833 75 86 36

Santa Maria di Leuca Art Nouveau Villas

The summer residences of aristocratic families, they were built at the end of the 29th century. The dominant style is Art Nouveau, with the addition of Moorish touches and gazebos with an oriental flavor.

📞 +39 0833 182 11 55

Nardò Baroque architecture

The historical center has its fulcrum in the baroque Piazza Salandra characterized by civil and religious monuments of impressive beauty, built between the 16th and 18th centuries.

📞 +39 0833 83 69 28

Otranto Aragonese Castle

Rebuilt several times, following the Saracen attack in 1480, the defensive structure was expanded and equipped with towers with gunboats. Today it hosts international events and exhibitions.

📞 +39 0836 21 00 94

Porto Selvaggio Regional Natural Park and Palude del Capitano

Covering an area of 1,100 hectares in the territory of Nardò, it was established in a coastal area subject to various reforestation interventions from the 1950s onwards.

📞 +39 0833 83 82 25

Santa Cesarea Terme

About 35 kilometers from Lecce, Santa Cesarea Terme overlooks the Adriatic Sea from the top of a plateau towering above the sea. The symbol of the town is the Moorish dome of the 19th century Villa Sticchi.

📞 +39 0836 94 40 43

Castro Zinzulusa Cave

Karst tunnel in the heart of an inlet south of Castro. The name derives from the popular belief you can see the rags of a worn-out dress in the stalactites and stalagmites, "zinzuli" in local dialect.

📞 +39 0836 94 33 40



Handwriting practice lines on page 118. The page contains 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing practice.

Handwriting practice lines on page 119. The page contains 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing practice.

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Research coordination: Vito Antonio Leuzzi.

Participants in the research and publication: Annabella De Robertis, Massimiliano Desiante, Anna Gervasio, Rosaria Leonardi, Vito Antonio Leuzzi, Raffaele Pellegrino, Maria Teresa Santacroce, Gianni Sardaro.

Collaborators: Francesco Altamura, Lucia De Frenza, Rosario Milano, Aldo Muciaccia, Francesco Terzulli.

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